THE TIMES

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No. 65,803

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1997

TODAY 10p

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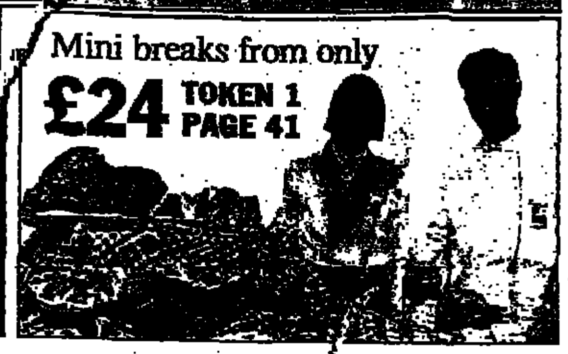

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Newcastle fight back

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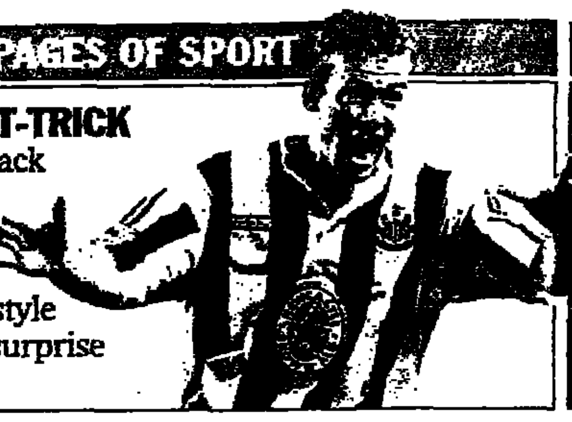

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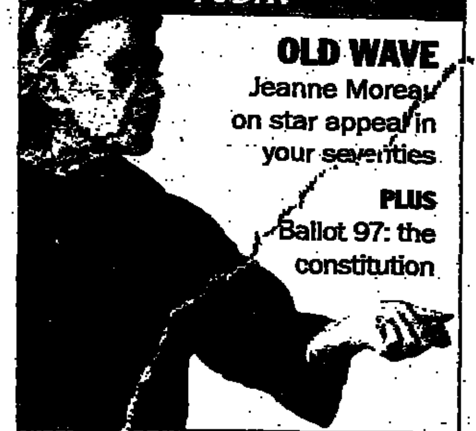

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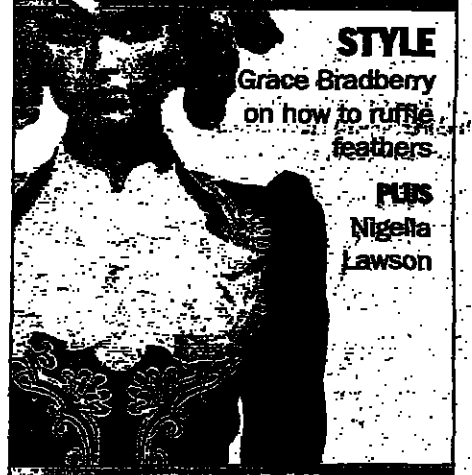

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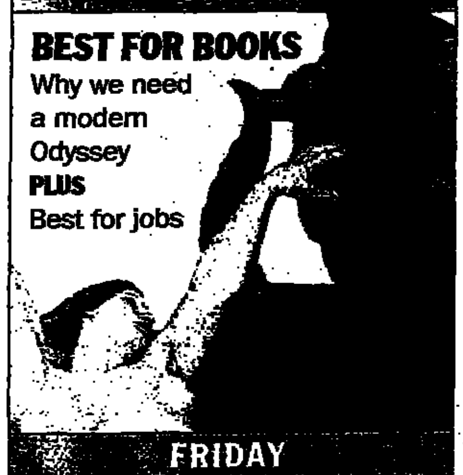

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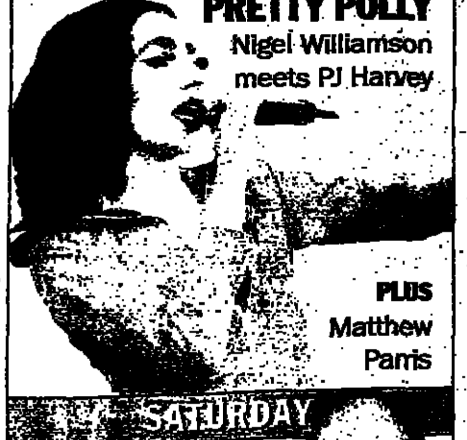

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Matthew Parris

SATURDAY

WEAR AND TEAR

How in-house fighting almost destroyed the house of Dior

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Tories set Wirral D-Day for early poll

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

TORY strategists have earmarked February 22 as "D-Day" — the final date on which John Major can go for a March election if the party faces a crushing defeat in the Wirral South by-election.

Allies of the Prime Minister who are heavily involved in election planning have argued that he should be prepared to abandon the Wirral contest only days before it is due to take place and call an immediate General Election for March 20.

They fear that a severe reverse in Wirral — *the writ for the February* 27 contest is being moved in the Commons today — would have a disastrous impact on the already strained morale of Conservative MPs.

The last day for deciding on whether to cancel the by-election is February 22 — a Saturday — according to the strategists, who have dubbed it "D-Day" at Conservative Central Office. Election advisers have been instructed to be available for consultations with the Prime Minister throughout the day after the Tories receive the latest intelligence on the Wirral poll.

Sir George Gardiner will meet lawyers today to try to overturn the decision of Reigate Conservatives to deselect him ....Page 2

The option of "pulling" the Wirral poll, where the Tories are defending an 8,000 majority, is being actively canvassed at the highest levels of the Government. Private polling has already suggested that the Wirral campaign is lost.

Senior Tories, including Alastair Goodlad, the party's chief whip, fear that in the aftermath of a bad defeat in Wirral, the Ulster Unionists would forsake Mr Major *completely* and be *prepared* to support Labour in a confidence vote.

In those circumstances, the strategists told *The Times* yesterday, *Mr Major would be better advised* to call an election on his own terms rather than being forced from office.

Mr Major has long been known to favour *May 1, and still does.* Even those who are canvassing the D-Day scenario would prefer to go to May 1 if at all possible. They believe Mr Major has the best *chance of winning the election if he* can soldier on.

But they admit that the worst possible option would be to be forced into an early election through the loss of a confidence vote. "It is a question of holding morale. It is about whether this whole thing implodes. We are very vulnerable because of the loss of majority. We must not be kicked out," said one senior Tory.

Some senior Party officials believe the effect of being forced into an election *by the loss of a* confidence vote could cost the Tories up to 10 seats.

John Prescott, the Deputy Labour leader, said yesterday that the *Labour Party election machine* was on an alert for an earlier poll than expected. Mr Prescott, speaking on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost*, said: "I think what we have got to do is put the election machine on a footing for March 20. That is precisely what I have done with my colleagues."

Mr Prescott, who will be campaigning in the Wirral today, said: "I think just as they get near to that election date in the Wirral they will call it off and announce a general election, and therefore they won't have that indictment which will come on the 27th if they allow it to take place."

He said the Tories had given up governing. "It is a phoney government and a phoney war," he added.

Mr Prescott's gibe came as private Tory party research shows that Labour is heading for a morale boosting Wirrall victory. The Tory Party high command has sent Tim Collins, a former director of communications and party candidate — who is one of Mr Major's most closest aides — to the constituency to assess the situation. Mr Collins, who has been there for more than a week, has produced a bleak assessment of party prospects.

Well, I hope it doesn't clash with Diana's Panorama sequel"

ELIZABETH LIPPMAN

Evelyn Amato describing her encounter with the amorous Rum Tum Tugger

Lloyd Webber faces $12m Cats claim

From Quentin Letts in New York

A BROADWAY theatregoer is suing Lord Lloyd Webber and his associates for $12 million (£7.5 *million*) "damages" after she was selected by a *Cats* actor for some audience participation.

Evelyn Amato, 31, filed a lawsuit in the New York state supreme *court* which claimed that she was attacked by David Hibbard, who was playing 'Rum Tum Tugger in the British composer's hit T.S. Eliot musical. The script calls for Rum Tum to get an audience member on to the stage and mime romantic interest in her. Alas, he chose Miss Amato, an unemployed office clerk with a disappointed smile, strawberry blonde fringe and purportedly maidenly sensibilities. "He grabbed my wrists and tried to lift me out of my seat," complained Miss Amato, extending her own painted talons to portray Rum Tum's claws. "I told him 'ask somebody else'. Then he grabbed me again and again I said no."

An insistent Rum Tum mounted the arms of her near-front stalls seat, tousled her hair and started to gyrate his hips and wave his tail in an alley cat manner. "He was

Continued on page 2, col 4

Uefa says FA has lost World Cup fight

By Rob Hughes, Adam Fresco and John Goodbody

THE Football Association secured the support of John Major and Tony Blair in its battle with Germany to host the 2006 World Cup, although it should have known two years ago that it was already a lost cause.

Uefa, football's governing body in Europe, said yesterday that it was astonished the FA had submitted a bid to host the lucrative event when it knew Germany had their full backing as long ago as 1995. They sent a fax to the FA at the weekend saying it "had already committed itself to supporting Germany".

English officials maintained last *night that they knew* nothing of this arrangement, describing Uefa's conduct as astonishing, undemocratic and entirely unacceptable. *However, Sir Bert Millichip,* chairman of the FA until last summer, was present in Las Vegas when Germany first publicised its bid in June 1993 — and he was also vice-president of Uefa at the time of the Fifa congress in Chicago in June 1994 when, according to Uefa, its executive officially backed Germany for the 2006 World Cup. It was widely known that the German bid had Uefa backing.

Gerhard Aigner, the Uefa general secretary, said yesterday from his home in Switzerland: "It seems unfortunate that a former vice-president of UEFA [Sir Bert] should have forgotten that he was present at meetings, in 1993, 1994 and 1995, all of which endorsed the German candidature for 2006."

He added: "You start to wonder about the reasons —

Continued on page 2, col 8

Rob Hughes, page 27

Oxford's old guard triumph

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

WINSTON CHURCHILL, Pitt the Elder and even Appius the Blind have been called in evidence to support moves to allow Oxford dons to go on participating in the university's affairs to the age of 75.

A number of venerable academics were *surprised to find* themselves disenfranchised when Congregation, the dons' parliament, discussed the university's proposal for a £40 million business school. New regulations imposing a retirement age of 65 for membership of university committees and Congregation had gone through almost unnoticed the previous year.

Last week the old guard staged a devastating counter-attack, routing the university administration in a full debate on the subject. At an unusually well-attended meeting of Congregation, dons voted by 75 to 12 to restore the original retirement age of 75.

Thomas Braun, of Merton College, said: "In 1940, it was just as well that a retiring age had not been enforced to prevent Mr Churchill from being a parliamentarian. He was 66." Pitt had waged a campaign against the war with America in the House of Commons until days before his death at 69, while the aged Appius had to be carried into the Senate on a litter to urge the Romans to resist Pyrrhus.

The university council's argument, advanced by Ruth Deech, Principal of St Anne's College, that "those who make our laws should be affected by them" fell on deaf ears. She said it was not unusual for academics to retire at 55 and continue to influence the university's development for a further 20 years while working elsewhere.

Although Oxford dons leave the university payroll at the age of 65, they remain members of faculties until 75. Until November 1995, that was enough *to confer the right to* vote. A total of 180 people lost the right to vote in Congregation when the regulations changed.

The university council has called a postal ballot of all dons over the next three weeks. The result will be binding.

The Archers' creator dies

Godfrey Baseley, creator of The Archers, the world's longest-running radio soap opera, died in hospital in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. He was 92. The programme, *intended to be a farming* equivalent of *Dick Barton*, was launched in 1951.......... Pages 3, 23

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هكذا من الاصل

RUC 'needs help from mainland' to curb marches

BY STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary should consider drafting in police officers from England and Wales during serious rioting in the Province, according to a Home Office report.

Officers from the 43 forces in England and Wales would be flown to Northern Ireland to provide relief at times of large-scale street disorders, particularly during the marching season.

The proposal is made in a report which points out that many RUC officers were on duty for five days without proper rest during last July's disturbances begun by the Orange parade at Drumcree in Co Armagh.

It also found that many men and women deployed to deal with the widespread disorder had been inadequately trained, were in unprotected vehicles and had protective equipment of a lower standard than their counterparts in England and Wales. As a priority, flameproof overalls must be provided for officers, the report states.

Colin Smith, one of Her Majesty's inspectors of constabulary, says that the RUC must maintain its capability to respond to serious public disorder. He says that recent disorders and the extreme pressure on officers indicated that the RUC should consider aid from elsewhere.

His report says: "While deployment of officers from England and Wales poses operational difficulties and raises political issues, the Irish Sea is no barrier to mutual aid, which in England as long ago as the 1960s was provided by air transport between forces."

Under the 1994 Criminal Justice Act, United Kingdom police officers have the power to operate across internal borders, the report states. The most recent example was last summer when officers from London were helped by those from Bedfordshire when rioting erupted after Germany defeated England in the semi-final of the European football championship. Similar operations occurred regularly during the miners' strike and during inner-city riots in the 1980s.

Although the report acknowledges the dedication of rank and file officers, it is implicity critical of senior officers. It says that while they may have considerable public-order experience, it "may not always be recent". It recommends that a proportion of senior RUC officers attend public-order training courses in Britain where they could learn different skills and tactical options and assess their methods in an environment outside the Province.

Mr Smith's recommendation is a reflection of concern that too few RUC officers are willing to widen their experience by accepting secondments or transfers to forces in Britain. The report of a full inspection of the RUC by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is critical of the way the RUC approaches public order planning and strategy. It demands continuous research in developing tactical options.

CRISPIN RODWELL

Relatives bearing crosses and portraits of the victims yesterday traced the steps of marchers killed by the Army on Bloody Sunday in 1972

Inquiry call as thousands remember Bloody Sunday

THOUSANDS marked the 25th anniversary of Bloody Sunday yesterday by retracing the steps of the 13 unarmed men who were shot dead by paratroopers in Londonderry (Nicholas Watt writes).

Relatives of the victims carried crosses with the names of the men who were shot dead by soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment on January 30, 1972. Demonstrators had been protesting against the introduction of internment. Thirteen men died at the scene and a fourteenth from from his wounds six months later.

John Hume, the local MP and leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, described Bloody Sunday as "the most traumatic day in the lifetime of every citizen in the city". He reiterated his call for the Government to set up a new inquiry into the shootings to examine evidence which challenges the conclusions of the official inquiry, conducted in 1972 by Lord Widgery.Lord Widgery upheld the paratroopers' claims that they opened fire in the Bogside after IRA gunmen shot at them when they tried to arrest some of the marchers. However, a new book claims that soldiers opened fire from Londonderry's walls, undermining claims that soldiers opened fire in self-defence.

Mr Hume said: "I knew many of the people who were killed and I know that they were totally innocent. Indeed John Major has told me in a letter that they were innocent of being armed with either guns or bombs. It is my intention now to get together all the new evidence with the families and take it directly to the Prime Minister."

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, will use a meeting this week in Belfast with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to call for a new inquiry.

An Irish Government spokesman said yesterday: "There are compelling arguments for looking at this again to put an end to this unhappy chapter."

☐ Gerry Adams yesterday denied claims by a former IRA terrorist that he discussed the possibility of murdering John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, in 1982. Sean O Callaghan, who was a senior member of the IRA in the 1980s, said Mr Adams discussed "how to deal" with Mr Hume in the year after the republican hunger strikes.

'Stitch-up' protest to Uefa grows

Continued from page 1

Germany clearly supported England for Euro 96, and announced at that time its own intentions towards the 2006 World Cup."

Although bidding for the event does not officially start until after 1998 with Fifa, football's world governing body, taking the final decision in 2000, Uefa's support carries a lot of weight.

Steve Double, a spokesman for the FA, emphatically denied the FA knew Uefa were backing Germany. "If we had [illegible] why immediately after Euro 96 did we start bidding for the 2006 tournament?"

His colleague, David Davies, added: "We have no alternative but to see the communications from Uefa as evidence of an attempt at a very early stage to prevent England's bid from receiving proper consideration. The attempt will not succeed."

The FA has the continued support of both Mr Major and Mr Blair, who called the arrangement between Uefa and Germany a "cosy stitch-up". The Prime Minister is helping to launch the £10 million campaign to stage the event with a lunch at Downing Street, on February 12, the day England play Italy in a World Cup qualifying game, bringing together 25 of the game's great and the good.

A Government spokesman yesterday reiterated their support for the bid. A Labour party spokesperson said: "Our position has not changed. We fully support the FA and we do not accept the game is over until the final whistle."

Rob Hughes, page 27

Britain might have to join euro in 2002, Cook says

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK strongly hinted yesterday that a Labour government would join a European single currency when it became legal tender in shops on the Continent in 2002. It was the clearest signal from the Shadow Foreign Secretary that Labour would be prepared to abolish the pound.

But Mr Cook delighted Labour Eurosceptics when he reiterated his doubts about Britain signing up in the first wave on January 1, 1999. His remarks on joining the second wave in 2002 were seized on by Tory MPs as evidence that Labour was secretly wedded to the end of sterling.

The Tories will today begin a campaign highlighting Labour's support for the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, which they argue could cost 500,000 jobs. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will unveil a poster showing a lion and claiming that the Tories stand up best for Britain's interests.

In a speech in Brussels on business competitiveness tomorrow, John Major is to underline the Government's opposition to the social chapter and contrast it with Tony Blair's vision of a "social Europe". He will list the advantages of Britain's shift to a deregulated economy.

Speaking on ITV's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme yesterday, Mr Cook said that 2002 was the "milestone" by which one would have to decide whether to go in, if the currency was working. "If it goes ahead and it succeeds, in other words, it is stable, then you cannot stay out." The retail phase began in 2002, he said. "I think it would take a very sober and serious calculation to stay out beyond 2002," he said.

Mr Cook restated Labour's doubts over signing up in the first wave by January 1, 1999. Mr Cook said: "In the short run, you can hold a position of being outside the single currency. Probably half the countries in the EU are going to be outside in the first wave even if that first wave does start in 1999, which is doubtful."

He also raised the possibility of a Blair administration using the EU presidency in the first half of 1998 "to hold the ring" to slow down the integrationists, chiefly France and Germany, pushing ahead towards a twin-track Europe.

But he cited Toyota, who have suggested that inward investment would suffer if Britain stayed out of the euro.

Mr Cook suggested that a Labour government could lead other countries in "a positive alliance" of more sceptical nations against France and Germany. The six-month British presidency of the EU was a crucial opportunity to "mobilise" the support of smaller countries. It might be possible to shift the focus from removing border controls and having common immigration policies to the reduction of EU fraud and reforming the Common Agricultural Policy.

Euro-truths, page 14

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Cats

Continued from page 1

shouting boom, boom," said Miss Amato, clutching herself for the benefit of photographers. "It was really disgusting."

The audience laughed long and loud. Miss Amato, however, felt "violated" and her lawsuit demands punitive and compensatory damages for assault, battery, invasion of privacy, violation of civil rights, negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress and false imprisonment. The incident lasted 15 seconds.

Rum Tum's proposition occurred shortly before the interval, and since that moment, insisted Miss Amato, her love life with her fiancé, Dennis, has not been the same. Her consort allegedly feels inadequate that he did not rise from the neighbouring seat to protect his betrothed.

Miss Amato attended the show in January 1996, the 5,561st night of the Broadway run of *Cats*. Her 5,560 predecessors appeared happy about their moment of stage glory, but she recalled the night with a theatrical shudder and the dab of a wet eye. Her lawyer, Michael O'Neill, complained that his client had received no warning that "someone might sit in front of her and thrust his pelvis in her face". An offer of free tickets to catch the show again was waved off as "offering someone another ticket on the Titanic".

While Miss Amato's imaginative suit may elicit some sympathy from British theatregoers, who tend to resist the public ritual of audience participation, it is being treated cautiously by the defendants. A spokesman for Lord Lloyd Webber said it was being investigated by his lawyers.

Meanwhile, *Cats* continues to pack 'em in and is set to become the longest-running musical on Broadway.

Tory spin-doctor aims to trip up Labour in Wirral

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Conservative Party has dispatched one of its most trusted troubleshooters — and a rising political star — to Wirral South to lay booby traps in the path of new Labour.

It is a sign of the importance attached by Tory Central Office to the unwanted byelection on Merseyside that Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, has drafted Tim Collins into the front line.

The prospective parliamentary candidate for Westmorland and Lonsdale should be nursing his constituency but today he will be pulling the strings behind the campaign launch by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

Few Tories believe that they can cling on to the seat, held by Barry Porter with a majority of 8,183. Mr Collins's job is to harry and harass Labour at every turn to ensure that it does not inflict such a humiliating defeat that voters go to the polls in the general election with a stirring victory for Labour still fresh in their minds.

Mr Collins, 33, is an experienced and formidable opponent, who began his career as a spin-doctor as political adviser to Michael Howard while he was Employment Secretary and moved to Tory public relations.

During the last election he masterminded John Major's battle-bus campaign — seen as a textbook operation for its lack of gaffes, but lacking in drama. He was rewarded with the job of Director of Communications under Sir Norman Fowler and later a post in the No 10 policy unit.

Mr Collins, a graduate of war studies at the London School of Economics, looks like Harry Enfield playing a computer nerd, an impression bolstered by his obsession with *Dr Who*, *Star Trek* and *Thunderbirds*. He eschews expensive restaurants with Lobby journalists, preferring a junk food snack, preferably with a briefing paper to peruse. He does not drink.

He has developed a formidable political brain, which can "number crunch" political scenarios and come up with a counter offensive at speed. After a political controversy has died down, it is often the sulphurous words, whispered anonymously by Collins, that stick in the mind.

During the party leadership election Mr Collins, a Major loyalist, described John Redwood and his supporters, Teresa Gorman and Tony Marlow, as looking like a "swivel-eyed, barmy army from ward eight at Broadmoor".

Collins: will harry and harass at every turn

After Wirral South, Collins should be able to hold on to Westmorland and Lonsdale with ease. His main problem does not require a spin-doctor to identify.

"The Liberal Democrat who has stood in previous elections is also called Collins," said Mr Collins. "For the last two elections the Conservatives have gone around saying 'Don't, whatever you do, vote for Collins'."

Gardiner tells lawyers to contest deselection

Sir George Gardiner will meet lawyers today to try to overturn the decision of Reigate Conservatives to deselect him as their official candidate at the general election. Senior Tories, led by Sir Marcus Fox, the chairman of the 1922 committee, led the barrage of calls for Sir George to accept Thursday's decision gracefully.

But a senior local Tory said last night: "If he mounts a potentially lengthy legal challenge we may end up having to accept him by default as the election is now only weeks away." Conservative Central Office, which has washed its hands of Sir George, 61, a long-standing critic of the Prime Minister, insists that the local party acted within the rules.

Labour tightens child sex list

Residents could be told when convicted child sex offenders move into their neighbourhood under Labour proposals to tighten up a government plan to provide greater protection to young children. Local education authorities, schools, charities and voluntary organisations would also be informed when a person in their district is put on a police-held paedophile register.

Parties use Commons clashes

John Major and Tony Blair's clashes at Prime Minister's Questions will feature in the election campaign. Tory and Labour election strategists are to take advantage of a little-known change in the rules to use footage from the Commons chamber in election broadcasts. The rules on the use of film material from the Commons was relaxed last year. MPs will have to consent to footage of them being used.

Asylum laws condemned

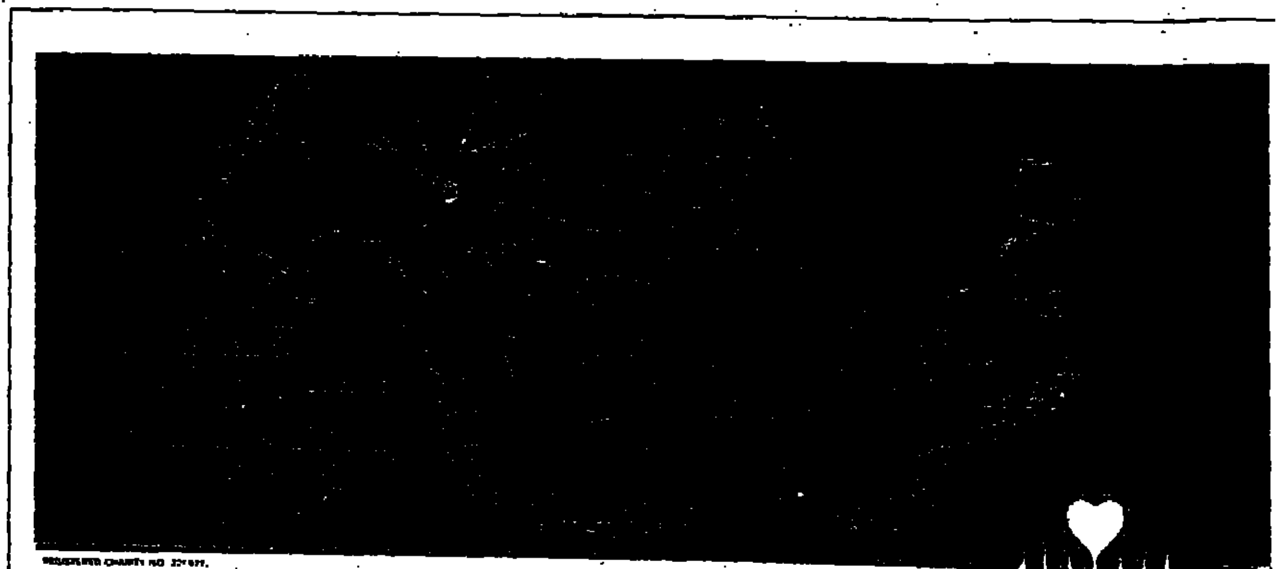
An Anglican bishop who arrived in Britain as an asylum seeker has spoken out against the "unnecessarily harsh" asylum laws. Ugandan-born Dr John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney, who fled Idi Amin's dictatorship in 1973 after he was imprisoned and severely beaten on a false charge of treason, said bogus claimants had made things difficult for genuine asylum seekers.

McKellen wins film trophy

Sir Ian McKellen's neo-Fascist interpretation of Shakespeare's *Richard III* won best film trophy at the Evening Standard Film Awards. Best actor was Liam Neeson for *Michael Collins*; best actress, Kate Winslet for *Sense and Sensibility* and *Jude*; best screenplay, Emma Thompson for *Sense and Sensibility* and John Hodge for *Trainspotting*; Peter Sellers award, Mark Herman for *Brassed Off*.

Mensa's brightest son

Jordan Powell, 7, is believed to be the youngest person in Britain to achieve the maximum score in a Mensa intelligence test. Jordan, from Neath, West Glamorgan was awarded 178. Potential members need 140 points to join, adults often score as low as 85 and rarely exceed 115 points. Jordan said passing the test had given him the confidence to pursue his ambition to join the Bar.



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Briton's new life in South Africa ends in murder

By Helen Johnstone

A BRITON who emigrated to start a new life in South Africa six months ago was murdered as he prepared to celebrate the news that he was to become a father.

Stuart Gaskell was shot twice in the head yards from his wife and mother, who had been bound and gagged before being dumped in the back of an empty truck by four armed robbers. Police in Cape Town believe Mr Gaskell, 26, knew his killers and may have saved his relatives' lives by not identifying them.

Mike Barkhuizen, investigating officer with the Cape Peninsula murder and robbery unit, said last night: "We believe he was scared that if he addressed the robbers he would put his pregnant wife in danger. That is why we believe he did not plead with his killers."

Mr Gaskell's wife, Estelle, 25, and his mother, Sheila Parks, from Burnley, Lancashire, who was on holiday with the couple, heard two shots as he was shot in the head "execution style". His body was found soon after by a colleague outside the truck rental company where he worked in an industrial park near Cape Town.

Gaskell: police believe he knew his killers

The robbers had disappeared with a truck-load of toasters and fridges worth about £30,000. The women were found after alerting police by banging on the side of the truck. Police said Mr Gaskell's wife and mother had agreed to meet him after work on Friday night at about 7.30pm to go out to celebrate the news that they were expecting their first child.

The women told police that on arriving at the company they were accosted by four men with two firearms. Mr Barkhuizen said: "At this point Mr Gaskell was alive. He had been tied up and gagged and was sitting down. The women were forced to lie down while the robbers ransacked the premises. They were then bundled into the back of an empty truck and locked up in the dark. They heard a scuffle outside and then two shots were fired before a car sped away."

Mr Barkhuizen added: "Mr Gaskell's wife had at first gone into the building to let her husband know she was waiting for him. When she failed to return to the car, his mother also went to look for them." Police said the women had remained locked up for about an hour before being released by police.

"There was no sign of a struggle. We suspect Mr Gaskell knew his killers, perhaps men he used to work with, who had inside information about the industrial park.

"We believe he was killed because he could identify them. He never spoke to the men and we believe he was scared that if he identified them he would put his wife and mother in danger of being killed as well."

Police in Cape Town and Mr Gaskell's employers, Value Truck Hire, are offering a £6,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers.

The couple had been married in Cape Town in 1993 while on holiday with Mrs Gaskell's mother and stepfather, who have lived in Cape Town for several years. The Gaskells decided to moved there permanently last year after Mr Gaskell was lured from Britain with the promise of good earnings.

Becky Simpson: "Children are different from adults in how they see things"

Girl, 10, moves listeners in drama on dying

By Alexandra Frean

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl's radio performance as a terminally ill child has moved so many listeners that the BBC is to repeat the hour-long monologue less than a month later.

More than 200 called or wrote to Radio 4 after hearing *Spoonface Steinburg*, in which Becky Simpson played a seven-year-old dying from cancer. A spokeswoman for the station said: "We cannot remember ever having so many calls from listeners thanking us for a drama, begging us to repeat it or asking if they could buy it on tape."

Spoonface is the nickname of a fictional Jewish girl with autism who comes from a broken home. After learning that she is terminally ill, she tries to come to terms with the meaning of life and death. Her hospital consultant introduces her to opera and she develops a fascination with divas who have glorious stage deaths.

After the consultant tells Spoonface about the Nazi concentration camps, she discovers inspiration in those who die with hope and spirit unbowed. It helps her to approach her death with dignity.

Becky, a pupil at Manchester High School for Girls, said that although she thought the play was "extremely sad" the first time she read it, after talking about it with her parents she realised that it had a positive message.

"Children are different from adults in the way they see things," she said. "They don't always try to pretend things are not happening. Spoonface did not try to buck the idea that she was dying. She faced up to it and went forward with it.

"I tried to imagine what it would be like to be her. It taught me how to be brave and how to approach everything that comes to you and that you should not be frightened."

Becky, who has featured in three other radio plays, spent two days recording the drama. Kate Rowland, the director, and Lee Hall, the writer, allowed her to change passages that she found difficult or unrealistic. Becky said: "There were some words in it that were not the words of a seven-year-old."

Hall said that although he was concerned about writing such a potentially traumatic role for a child actress, he felt that Becky had handled it brilliantly. He wrote *Spoonface Steinburg* as the last of four plays about children's experiences of life and death. The first, *I Love You Jimmy Spud*, won the 1996 Tony Radio Award for best writer and is being filmed.

☐ *Spoonface Steinburg will be repeated on Saturday, February 22, at 2.30pm.*

Founding father of The Archers dies aged 92

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

GODFREY BASELEY, creator of the world's longest-running radio soap opera, *The Archers*, died yesterday in hospital in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. He was 92.

Mr Baseley, who never lost touch with the *Archers'* production team at the BBC's Pebble Mill studios in Birmingham, will go down in broadcasting annals as the creator of one of the most enduring, significant and popular radio programmes ever.

Vanessa Whitburn, the programme's editor, last night paid tribute to the man whom she described as a gifted broadcaster and friend. "He created a programme that has become a national institution. Millions of listeners are hugely indebted to him for the pleasure it has given them over the last 46 years."

Ms Whitburn recently commented that Mr Baseley, who retired in 1972, was in favour of the more modern and racier plot developments she had introduced into the rural soap. "And if he didn't like anything he was never slow to let us know," she said.

Mr Baseley, descended from a long line of farmers, was an agricultural programme maker at the BBC when the programme was conceived. The idea came out of a meeting he held in 1948 with a group of farmers' leaders who said they wanted to hear a farming equivalent of the *Dick Barton* detective programmes. *The Archers* was launched in 1951. As well as entertaining it aimed to inform farmers about new techniques and to boost food production in the post-war era. The audience soon exceeded that for *Dick Barton*, reaching nine and a half million at the beginning of 1953. By this time the inhabitants of the fictional village of Ambridge had become a national institution.

A high point in Mr Baseley's career came on September 22, 1955, when he arranged the death in a fire of Grace Archer, one of the leading characters. The episode was broadcast as a spoiling tactic on the launch night of ITV. The ruse worked and the episode attracted eight million away from the new television channel.

Obituary, page 23

Baseley: created an institution on radio

Midweek lottery curtails viewers' right of reply

By Audrey Magee

THE BBC1 programme *Points of View* is to be cut in half from Wednesday to make way for the first midweek lottery draw. Anne Robinson, who has hosted the programme for almost ten years, said she was outraged and joked that she would run over time and take charge of the *Nine O'Clock News*.

She said: "We're just going to stay on air so that when the news comes up at 9pm viewers will see me fighting with Peter Sissons. I'll move into the news studio and broadcast through the news! Seriously, though, I am devastated, but hopefully there will be some extra time found for us." Ms Robinson, 52, from Crosby, Merseyside, has been shifted from her usual 8.50pm slot to make way for the *National Lottery Live*. The lottery currently has a draw on Saturday but from Wednesday will also host a midweek draw, starting at 8pm. The inclusion of the live draw leaves little space for *Points of View*, which has been on air since June 14, 1966. The programme will start five minutes later, at 8.55pm, finishing in time for the *Nine O'Clock News*.

Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said the BBC was not taking the opinions of its viewers and their rights seriously. She said: "Cutting *Points of View* demonstrates that they just don't care. It's a great pity. Viewers get little enough time on air to voice their views about programmes." About 30 million people, or 65 per cent of the adult population in the UK, play the National Lottery each Saturday. Half also watch the draw on television at 8pm on Saturday. Camelot, the lottery organiser, is hoping for similar viewing figures for the 15-minute programme on Wednesday nights.

The company originally announced plans for a midweek lottery in addition to the Saturday night draw last October. It already had an agreement with the BBC that the corporation would broadcast a midweek lottery draw if Camelot decided to run it.

Camelot predicts that the introduction of a second draw will reduce the average Saturday jackpot from £10 million to £8 million. The Wednesday jackpot will be about £4 million. The highest jackpot in the lottery's two-year history came last June when three people won £42 million.

The BBC argues that there is plenty of time for viewers to express their views, both on radio and television. But a spokesman said that, as with all schedule changes, the time allocated will be reviewed in the future.

The first midweek lottery draw will last half an hour, 15 minutes longer than usual, and special guests are to include the singer Michael Ball and the Olympic gold medallists Steven Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent.

Leading article, page 21

Scientist scores over the bookies

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A STATISTICIAN at Lancaster University has come up with the gambler's dream, a foolproof method of taking money off the bookmakers.

Mark Dixon admits his technique cannot match the man who last week won nearly £300,000 from Ladbrokes by successfully predicting the results of 13 football matches but over a season or two it will turn in steady profits.

The only problem is that users of the method, to be published in an academic journal, need a degree in statistics to understand it and a powerful computer to make it work.

The method relies on analysis of past results to predict future ones more accurately than the bookmakers can. "They do it around a table, using experts to discuss each match and come up with the odds for a home win, an away win, or a draw, and they do it very well," Dr Dixon says. "But our method, over a long period, is slightly better."

The slight edge is enough, on average, to turn a £10-a-week bet on selected matches into £12 — a 20 per cent profit. But the punter using it would have to persevere, as it cannot guarantee profits every week, only over a long run.

Dr Dixon's method assumes that each team in the Premiership and the Football League has certain parameters, such as attacking and defensive ability, that can be measured by feeding past results into the computer program. The program contains data covering about two seasons' worth of games — any more than that does not add to the accuracy of the predictions. The program predicts the chances of a home win, away win, or draw for each of the weekend games; then compares these with the odds being offered by the bookmakers.

In maybe two to three matches out of more than 40 every weekend, the computer predictions show that the bookmakers are offering more generous odds than the data justify, and a bet is placed on that match.

Dr Dixon has not actually placed any bets, since the process would be time-consuming and he is a researcher, not a punter. But comparison of actual results with the bets picked out by the computer program show that it would have turned a profit if pursued for long enough.

Sun, sand and privacy for Captain Phillips as he marries in Hawaii

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles and Alan Hamilton

CAPTAIN Mark Phillips and Sandy Pflueger were married at the weekend against the backdrop of a Hawaiian sunset half a world away from Westminster Abbey, where the groom wed Princess Anne before a global television audience in 1973.

After exchanging vows overlooking the Pacific Ocean from a lavish beachfront estate owned by Miss Pflueger's father, the couple joined about 100 guests at a black-tie reception in his grounds on Saturday evening. The Queen's first son-in-law and his new bride, also a leading equestrian, kept security tight and publicity minimal for the simple ceremony that has made them the talk of the international three-day eventing circuit.

Miss Pflueger, 47, was born and raised near Honolulu, where her millionaire father James is a prominent businessman. Few locals were among the guests, however. Most were said to be friends from the British and Australian eventing teams, and from the American team which Captain Phillips, 48, now manages.

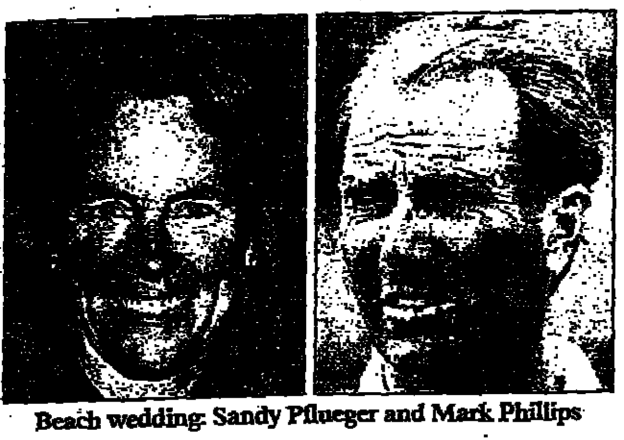
Entertained by a traditional Hawaiian band, the wedding party danced into the night in a marquee set up within earshot of the breakers that pound the reefs off Waikiki beach on the south shore of the island of Oahu.

The bride's father, a former racing driver who now runs two lucrative car dealerships, owns property reportedly worth $6 million (£4 million) near Diamond Head, the Cannes of the Hawaiian chain. He also operates a private helicopter.

His wealth, much of which Sandy is expected to inherit, has prompted strong rumours of a pre-nuptial contract which Captain Phillips was reportedly obliged to sign. But the existence of a contract has not been confirmed by either family; discretion, indeed, was the watchword of the weekend. "Wedding? What wedding? I'm here for a holiday," one guest said as he joined a whale-watching trip on Saturday morning. He and some 20 others also attended a low-key dinner on Friday evening at the Diamond Head home of Nancy Pflueger, the bride's divorced mother.

Miss Pflueger met Captain Phillips through her riding and has been married once before, to the British dressage judge Stephen Clarke. Though still a frequent visitor to America, she became a British citizen last year.

In the 1980s she bought a home, stables and 250 acres at Chilton Foliat, near Hungerford, Berkshire, from the pop singer Justin Hayward. Friends are uncertain where the couple will live and wonder whether the new Mrs Phillips, who is due home on Saturday will urge Captain Phillips to give up his home at Aston Farm, near Gatcombe, and distance himself from his previous life.



Beach wedding: Sandy Pflueger and Mark Phillips

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Now British balloonists reach for the stars

Open gondola will carry two men 24 miles above Earth

By Andrew Pierce

TWO Britons are planning a televised voyage into space in the biggest hot-air balloon to be built. Per Lindstrand, 47, and Colin Prescot, 46, will attempt the trip into the stratosphere 24½ miles above Earth in an open gondola.

The gondola will be suspended beneath a 538ft helium-filled balloon more than three times the height of Nelson's Column. The crew will be dressed in cosmonaut suits made by Zwezda, the Russian company that designed the space suits for the Soviet space programme. The ascent will last about three hours.

When they reach the target altitude of 130,000ft a smaller balloon equipped with a remote-controlled video camera will be floated into space from the gondola. Huw Hudson, the director of the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*, will make a film of the silver balloon floating at the edge of space.

Mr Prescot said: "We don't want to miss a thing. We want to send back the images of the century. We are attempting the forgotten feat: the original race into space."

The 4.5-tonne balloon, which will be launched in Britain, will spend several hours suspended above the curvature of Earth in midnight-blue sky, with a 250,000 sq mile view of Europe spread out below like a relief map.

A Lear jet will accompany the aviators to 50,000ft. At 130,000ft they will be in uncharted territory: Concorde does not go above 60,000ft, military aircraft a maximum of 85,000ft.

It will be one of Mr Hudson's most dramatic films. The lack of atmosphere will cause the helium to expand and the balloon to increase in width to 275 times its size.

Mr Lindstrand, who designed and built Richard Branson's *Virgin Challenger* and was in the crew when it tried unsuccessfully to circumnavigate the globe, and Mr Prescot hope to capture a world record that has lasted for 36 years. In 1961 two American naval commanders reached 113,000ft in a balloon. The two men involved separately in the last two attempts never returned.

Mr Lindstrand is flying today to the United States for his first meeting with officials of the space agency Nasa, who are giving free technical advice. Talks have started with a series of sponsors who will underwrite the £2 million cost.

Mr Lindstrand and Mr Prescot, the chief executive of Flying Pictures, Europe's largest commercial operator of hot-air balloons, have begun a training programme under the guidance of the Swedish Air Force Institute of Medicine.

Mr Lindstrand, who holds distance, duration and altitude balloon records, said: "The space suits are the key to our survival. At 130,000ft our blood will boil instantly and the human body explodes. Nothing can go wrong with the suits." The suits cost £155,000 each and weigh 50lb.

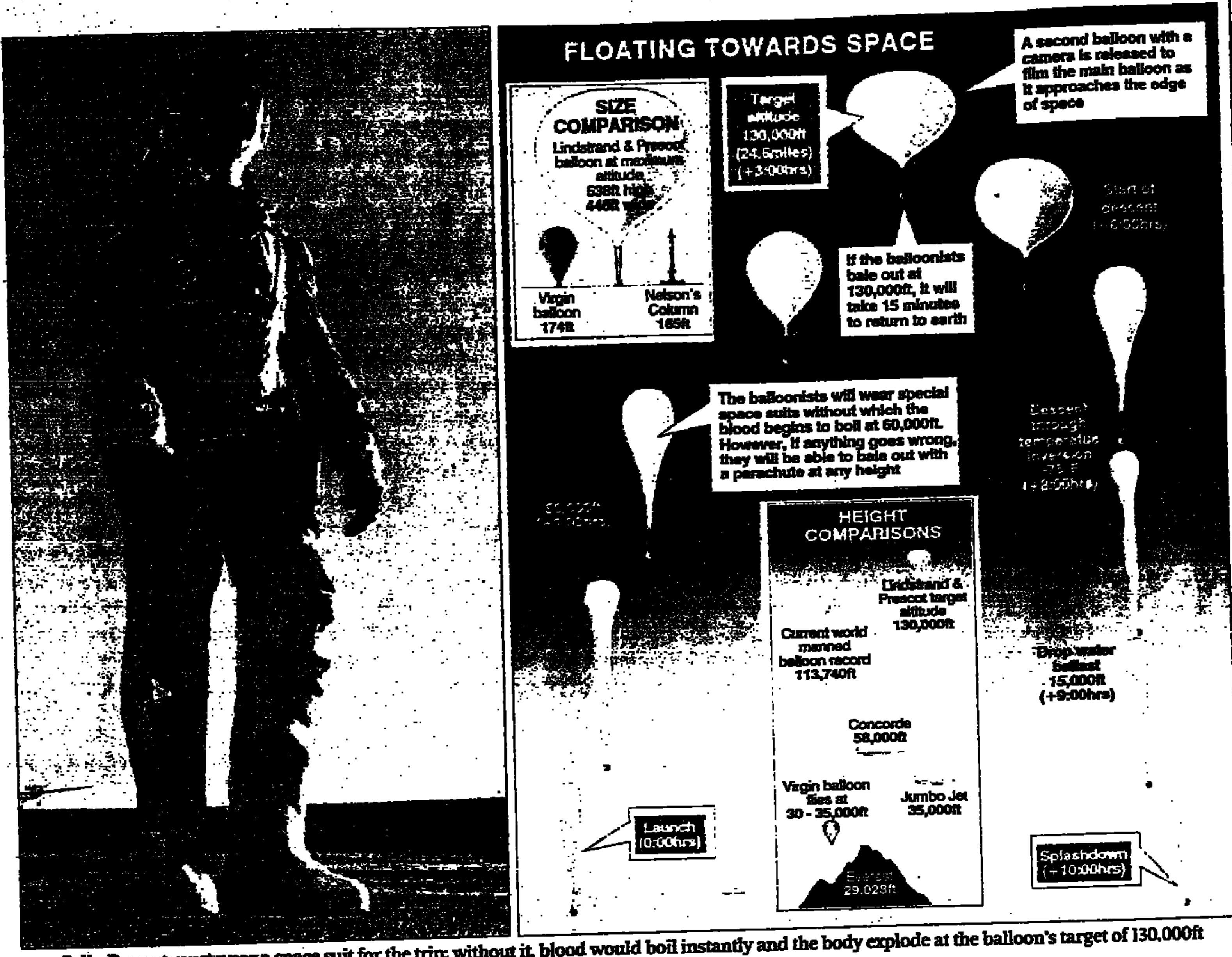
The men will be cocooned inside fabric and will breathe pure oxygen.

If the fabric tears at up to 50,000ft, the wearer will have seven seconds of consciousness before the loss of oxygen causes the blood to begin to boil. At higher levels, any malfunction in the suit will cause death. If one of the men dies it has been agreed that the other will abort the mission. The suits are the only item in the mission that do not have a back-up facility. The two men will test replica suits in accelerated freefall training from helicopters under the supervision of the RAF.

They will undergo pressure-chamber training in Moscow, similar to the programme of the Russian cosmonauts, and a sea survival course to prepare them for an Apollo-style North Sea landing. If anything goes wrong with the mission, which will be linked to a mobile control unit on the ground, the balloon will be discharged and the gondola will be parachuted to Earth.

There is an escape hatch and both men will have parachutes. Mr Lindstrand has started work on the space balloon at his factory in Oswestry.

Mr Prescot's wife, Suzie, agreed that he could go only on the condition that he takes her to Venice on his return. The pilots are taking out £1 million life insurance.


FLOATING TOWARDS SPACE
SIZE COMPARISON
Lindstrand & Prescot balloon at maximum altitude, 538ft high 446ft wide
Virgin balloon 174ft
Nelson's Column 185ft
Target altitude 130,000ft (24.6miles) (+3:00hrs)
A second balloon with a camera is released to film the main balloon as it approaches the edge of space
Start of descent (+6:00hrs)
If the balloonists bale out at 130,000ft, it will take 15 minutes to return to earth
The balloonists will wear special space suits without which the blood begins to boil at 60,000ft. However, if anything goes wrong, they will be able to bale out with a parachute at any height
Descent through temperature inversion -75 F (+8:00hrs)
HEIGHT COMPARISONS
Lindstrand & Prescot target altitude 130,000ft
Current world manned balloon record 113,740ft
Drop water ballast 15,000ft (+9:00hrs)
Concorde 58,000ft
Virgin balloon flies at 30 - 35,000ft
Jumbo Jet 35,000ft
Everest 29,028ft
Launch (0:00hrs)
Splashdown (+10:00hrs)

Colin Prescot must wear a space suit for the trip: without it, blood would boil instantly and the body explode at the balloon's target of 130,000ft

Latchkey children failed by costly care

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

MORE than 800,000 children under 12 are forced to make their own way home in the dark every day after school because their parents cannot afford childcare, according to a report published today.

Research commissioned by the Daycare Trust shows that there is only one childcare place for every 50 children. With the annual cost of private care approaching £3,000 a child, the result is a growing number of "latchkey kids".

The trust says that costs rose by 42 per cent between 1991 and 1994. A family with two young children and an average income would have to devote 20 per cent of its budget to childcare. As a result, almost half of all working women rely on relatives, partners or friends to look after their children after school.

Colette Kelleher, the trust's director, said: "We have a deeply unfair system which means that unless you can afford very expensive childcare your child cannot have the same access to services as wealthier parents. These children are at a vulnerable age to be left to their own devices."

There are fewer than 700,000 regsistered childcare places for Britain's six million children under the age of eight, the report says. Ms Kelleher said: "We are at the bottom of the childcare league in Europe and for a rich country we should be doing much better."

☐ Children with full-time working mothers are twice as likely to fail examinations than class-mates whose mothers work part-time, according to research released today. A study of 600 families by North London University found that a quarter of children whose mothers worked full-time left school without any GCSEs. This fell to 11 per cent for children whose mothers worked part-time.

Business jet goes first class

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A BOEING 747 is to be turned into the world's most luxurious executive airliner, flying a maximum of 67 passengers on prestige business trips and to corporate events.

Chess International, the British firm behind the plan, is convinced that even the Queen could be interested in renting the jumbo jet for official visits but is concentrating its marketing drive on major companies in Japan and the Middle East.

Chess International is negotiating to rent or buy a Boeing 747 SP, which normally seats about 300 people and plans to spend £6 million converting it. Most of the seats will be stripped out and a conference room, cinema and library installed as well as lounges and bars.

The jet will be leased out at between £10,000 and £15,000 an hour, about double the amount charged for a small corporate jet.

EU may end cormorant's protected status

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

ANGLERS are claiming a breakthrough in their long-running campaign against the cormorant, which they accuse of destroying their sport by raiding inland waters.

Support for their cause has come from Brussels, where the European Commission is drawing up a proposal ending the special protection enjoyed by cormorants under European Union law for the past 18 years. The Commission says cormorants should no longer be listed in Annex I of the 1979 European directive on the conservation of wild birds, a status reserved for species that are considered to be endangered.

Anglers believe managers of fisheries should be allowed to shoot cormorants to protect their stock, just as farmers are allowed to kill foxes, rabbits and other wildlife they regard as pests. But ornithologists are fighting a rearguard action to protect the birds.

Even if EU law was changed, cormorants would remain protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, which allows them to be culled legally only under licence from the Government. Permission is rarely granted, and then only for small numbers of birds.

CORRECTION

The photograph accompanying the obituary on Saturday of José Ignacio Domecq was, in fact, that of his eldest son. We apologise for the error.

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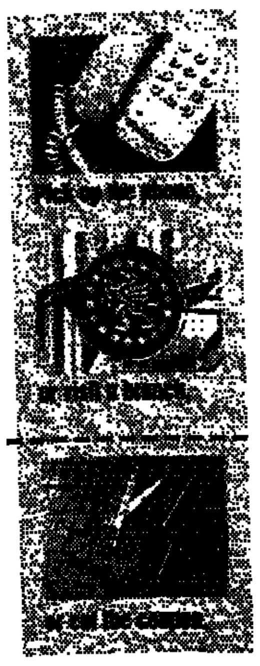

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BALLOT 97
THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

3. *The constitution*

Spectators unmoved by players' tussle over rules

THE POLITICS

CONSTITUTIONAL issues seem destined to play a critical yet curious role in the election campaign. They are critical because, in sharp contrast to almost every other area of public policy, the *differences between the manifesto* positions of the two major parties are likely to be wider compared with 1992. *John Major and Tony* Blair have made clear that they will make the constitution and the performance of our system of government a central part of their respective campaigns.

These issues are curious because, with the striking exception of devolution in Scotland, there is *little opinion poll evidence that* suggests the public is especially animated by these questions.

Debate over systemic reform has been fuelled by single-party government *for almost* two decades and a rising number of rows over parliamentary malpractice and "sleaze". *Labour politicians* who want to suggest a crisis of faith in "the system" have an uphill struggle. *Tories who want to escape* association with sexual and financial scandals have an even harder task. *Constitutional reform, even* more than most policies, is a science of unprovable hopes.

For most of the past century there has been a broad consensus, at least between the two front benches, *that* Britain's arrangements, although unusual by international standards, actually performs rather well. *That* confidence was boosted during the interwar years when this country resisted *extremes of communism and fascism.*

The Attlee Government, elected in 1945, *was highly innovative in* economic and social fields but left the constitution almost untouched. *Change began* with the rise of nationalist sentiment in Scotland and Wales in the 1960s. The *Conservatives moved first with the* promise of a Scottish Assembly made by Edward Heath in 1968. *Harold Wilson and James Callaghan* were forced to grapple, ultimately unsuccessfully, with the *devolution dilemma throughout* the second half of the 1970s.

Even bolder reforms were contemplated — *mostly more for party* advantage than constitutional principle. The sight of a Labour *government, elected with only 38* per cent of the popular vote in 1974, pushing through important nation*alisation measures* filled many Conservatives with horror. The *seemingly unstoppable* power of the trade unions provoked fears for democracy. Many centre-right fig*ures such as Lord Hailsham of St* Marylebone, Sir Ian Gilmour, Chris Patten, William Waldegrave *and Kenneth* Clarke *moved* towards wholesale reform, a Bill of Rights and proportional representation. Conservatives *who today* oppose Labour plans have to grapple with past Tory commit*ments, including moves to remove* the vote from hereditary peers.

The arrival of Margaret Thatcher *marked a strong shift* against devolution, proportional representation and many other changes. *After a notable struggle* she reversed the Tory stance on Scotland. *After 1979 her assault on* trade union autonomy largely dispelled fears that Parliament had *been displaced by flying pickets.* Her victories in 1983 and 1987 suggested that traditional arrange*ments could still operate perfectly* well for a victorious party.

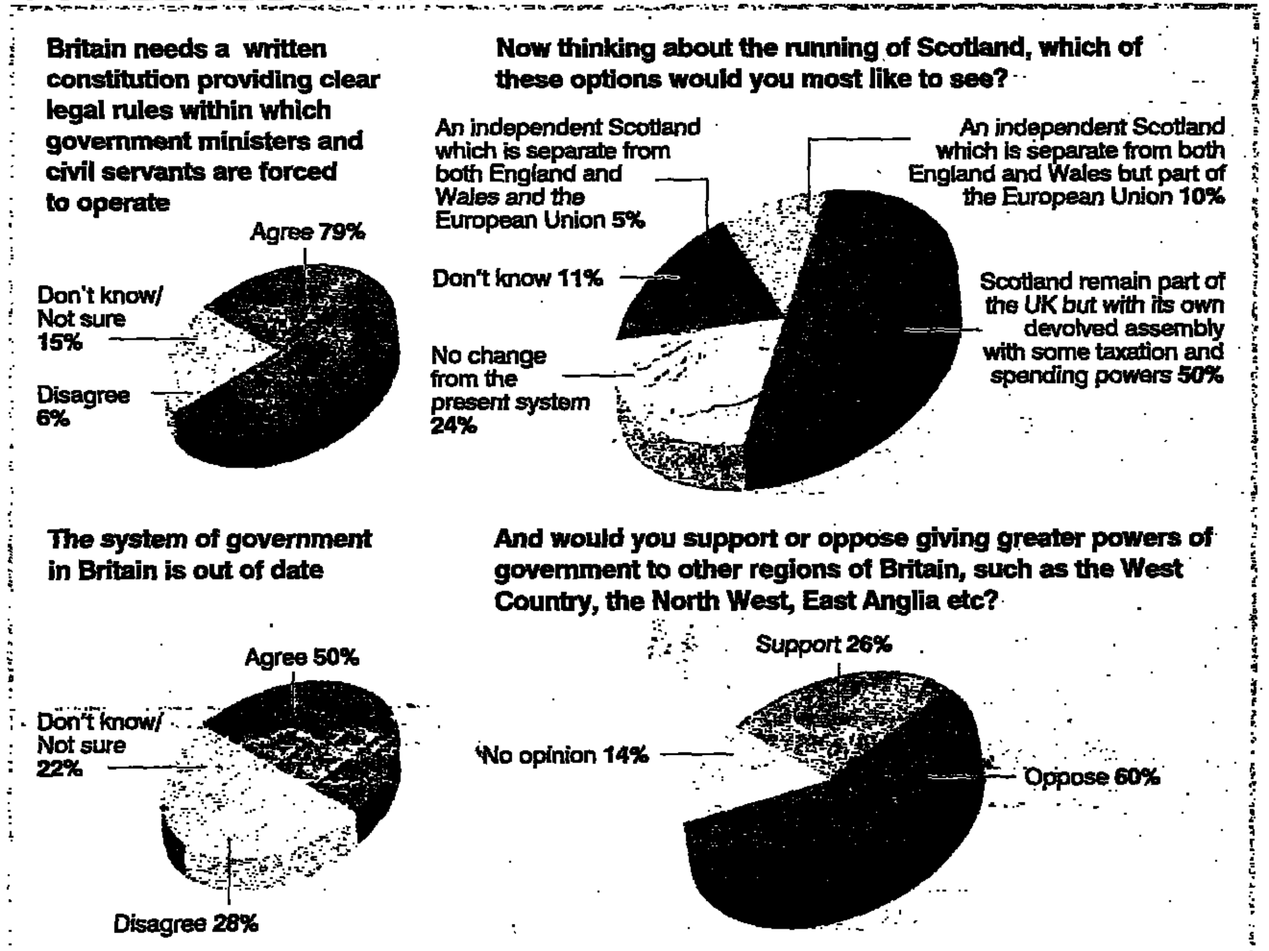
At the same time, new concerns *came to light. The fear grew on the* Left that our constitutional system, far from making governments too weak, *made them too strong* and too centralised. The litany of grievances included abolition of the *Greater London Council and* metropolitan counties, the ban on union representation at GCHQ, *the police tactics employed during* the miners' strike, the ban on sales of *Spycatcher*, and broadcasting *restrictions on Sinn Fein. As a* consequence, the pressure group *Charter 88 was formed in 1988.* Its membership was drawn overwhelmingly from the Centre-Left of *British politics, disproportionately* among Liberal Democrats. Labour was groping towards this territory. *The party was especially commit*ted, as it always is in opposition, to curbing the House of Lords. *Despite Neil Kinnock's own role* in defeating devolution in the 1970s, the antipathy of Scotland towards *Thatcherism meant that* a parliament in Edinburgh, and a lesser entity in Cardiff, had to be promised. *The 1992 manifesto* also embraced the idea of a Freedom of Information Act.

Defeat persuaded Labour to adopt constitutional issues with enthusiasm. *Under John Smith it embraced the European Conven*tion on Human Rights and took freedom of information more seriously. Mr Smith argued that Britain would stay united only if a credible outlet were created for Scottish aspirations. With Mr Blair the position has been expanded and refined. He has expressed more interest in the revival of local government for England and has made plain his personal interest in creating elected city mayors. He has entered into a *dialogue* with the Liberal Democrats on constitutional reform.

Labour's package represents the *most radical set* of alterations to the constitution since the 1870s. The question of whether that is necessary *or desirable* will be indissoluble from the sense of change required by the electorate.

Leading article, page 21

WHAT VOTERS THINK ABOUT PROPOSED CHANGES


Britain needs a written constitution providing clear legal rules within which government ministers and civil servants are forced to operate

Now thinking about the running of Scotland, which of these options would you most like to see?

The system of government in Britain is out of date

And would you support or oppose giving greater powers of government to other regions of Britain, such as the West Country, the North West, East Anglia etc?

Agree 79%
Don't know/ Not sure 15%
Disagree 6%
An independent Scotland which is separate from both England and Wales and the European Union 5%
An independent Scotland which is separate from both England and Wales but part of the European Union 10%
Don't know 11%
Scotland remain part of the UK but with its own devolved assembly with some taxation and spending powers 50%
No change from the present system 24%
Agree 50%
Don't know/ Not sure 22%
Disagree 28%
Support 26%
No opinion 14%
Oppose 60%

Source: MORI/Rowntree Reform Trust (1995)

Tories fail to satisfy need for reform

THE RECORD

THE Tories describe themselves as the custodians of careful reform. They argue that the essential character of the constitution is evolutionary and that their policies are in line with gradual change rather than the radicalism of Labour.

Conservative reform since 1979 can be placed in three distinct categories. The first concerns the working of the House of Commons. One of the Thatcher Government's earliest acts was to support *the introduction of select com*mittees for the House of Commons. These have the role *of shadowing government de*partments and both provide backbench MPs with a worthwhile *function and improve* Parliament's ability to scrutinise the executive.

During John Major's tenure as Prime Minister there has been, through the Jopling Committee, a wholesale reconsideration of how the House of Commons organises its timetable. The result of this has been sharply to cut back the number of very late sittings. This, advocates suggest, should produce a more civilised atmosphere and one more conducive to the proper consideration of legislation.

The Prime Minister also claims credit for creating the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life. In particular this has tackled the long-vexed question of MPs' outside interests by placing new regulations on their relationship with lobby groups and mandating disclosure of supplementary earnings. Mr Major, however, instructed Lord Nolan only as the result *of public outrage over the* behaviour of some Tory MPs: the Government resisted the *full radicalism of the Nolan* recommendations.

The Tories emphasise the significance of Michael Forsyth's decision to enhance the authority of the Scottish and Welsh Grand Committees of Parliament. *These now regu*larly meet in the countries concerned. It can thus be claimed that government *has* been brought closer to the Scottish and Welsh peoples. Opponents argue that this is a poor substitute for genuine devolution.

The second segment of reform, *the Government would* contend, concerns the release of state information that would *previously* have been secret. At the Whitehall level this has involved the publica*tion of the membership of* Cabinet committees (which until 1992 did not officially *exist) and the publication of* the key document — *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* — which lays out the expected behaviour of ministers and civil servants. This has *modestly* improved the outside scrutiny of how government conducts its business.

The Tories can point to a vast expansion in the information about public services available to ordinary people. This has been greatest in the field of education, where considerable detail *is now* available on such matters as examination performance and truancy records.

It has been carried through to other sectors such as health, the police and transport through the system of open targets advocated by the Citizen's Charter *and other* managerial initiatives. This, the Government says, now constitutes *a wealth of information* of practical value to the public rather than the abstract notion of a Freedom of Information Act that would have little impact on the lives of the vast *majority* of people.

Finally, the Government would point to the Data Pro*tection Act of 1984, which* allowed individuals access to information held about them *on Whitehall computers,* and the Official Secrets Act of 1989, which put the security services *on a statutory basis. In each* case a concern about the rights of citizens was dealt with. Such a case-by-case basis, it is mooted, offers far more protection than the lofty but *vague ideals* associated with a Bill of Rights.

Not much of this carries *weight with either of the main* opposition parties. According to Labour, the Tories have presided over a system of government that has become "centralised, inefficient and bureaucratic". *As a result,* British politics produces "meaningless confrontation rather then *serious debate*". Worse still, British citizens "lack basic rights to challenge *unfair government decisions*". Tony Blair proposes a set of reforms to deal with the *inadequacies that he argues* have been the Tory legacy.

Labour, though, is relatively *restrained in its criticism com*pared with the barrage put up by the Liberal Democrats. The *extent of their objections* is neatly captured by a single sentence in a recent policy *document: "The basic fault* with democracy in Britain today is that it is not democratic." *While Labour sees its* proposals as representing the long overdue modernisation of *the existing system,* the Liberal Democrats would move all the way to a written constitution *and an essentially* federal political structure with most power parcelled downwards *to Scottish and Welsh* parliaments, regional assemblies and local government.

Both Labour and Liberal Democrats would go much further in altering the internal procedures *of the House of* Commons, and would undertake major change in the operation of *the House of* Lords. Here, though, Mr Blair is most exercised by the *present composition of the* Upper House, namely the existence of hereditary peers *with voting rights, whereas* the Liberal Democrats would create something similar to the United States Senate.

Regardless of the merits of these proposals, whoever is *elected will have to deal with* three additional developments since 1979. Those concern *Europe, the judiciary and the* state of local government. The first two were not the result of deliberate intention from the Conservatives. Even the third has an accidental quality. Collectively, however, they have an enormous influence over how we are governed.

*The European Union exer*cises a command over the constitution that would have been *unimaginable in 1979.* Then almost all decisions within the EEC were made on *the basis of unanimity.* The Single European Act 1986 and the Maastricht treaty radically *extended the areas where* European law prevailed and allowed for qualified majority voting.

The role of the judiciary has also expanded. In the past the courts were deferential towards the Government and Parliament. Only where a *minister had clearly exceeded* his legal authority would a judge feel comfortable admon*ishing him. Over the past 15* years the concept of judicial review has seen vast change. *As Michael Howard,* the Home Secretary, can testify, judges are now willing to strike *down ministerial* actions because they believe them to be unfair, disproportional, *or undertaken without* due consultation.

Finally, there is the sad state of local government. In their efforts to deal with certain far-Left councils and to ensure a tight grip on public spending, the Tories have passed some 150 laws affecting the indepen*dence of local authorities,* reducing their autonomy. Labour has bemoaned these trends. *In office they too face* the task of controlling public spending and this may limit *their willingness to allow local* bodies substantial new power.

By international standards, Britain's *unwillingness to lay* out fundamental freedoms in formal statute is highly unusual. The culture of secrecy within Whitehall is pro*nounced* by Northern European standards. Britain's poor record in front of the European Court of Human Rights *might suggest there should be* some concern about the protection of individual liberties. *Our traditional arrangements* do not mesh well with the demands of EU membership.

It is hard to believe that some sort of reform will not be necessary over the coming years. *If the Conservatives are* unwilling to accept that, then the selective package of *change that any Labour gov*ernment would introduce, even if flawed in detail, may *prove irresistible.*

Next Monday: health

THE POLITICIANS

■ CONSERVATIVE

Most major speeches on the constitution have been given by John Major. He has been supported on issues concerning individual rights and freedom of information by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

Devolution is dealt with by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and William Hague (right), the Welsh Secretary. Mr Hague's *communications* skills seem likely to earn him a broader brief on these *matters during the election* campaign. Central Office has also made Stephen Dorrell a leading figure in attacking Labour's plans. *This has* more to do with presentational factors than any specific expertise.

■ LABOUR

Tony Blair has given most of the major speeches in this area and has been influential in amending *Labour's* plans for devolution.

Jack Straw, the Shadow *Home Secretary,* has led thinking on individual rights and access to information. George Robertson (right), the Shadow Scottish Secretary, has had an uneasy time dealing with his *party's proposals for north* of the border. Ron Davies, Shadow Welsh Secretary, *has had rather an easier* time.

Unlike the Conservatives, Labour has not moved any figure from normal depart*mental duties* to put the public case for the party's plans.

WHAT THEY SAID

Our constitutional fabric has been woven over the centuries. It's the product of hundreds of years of knowledge, experience and history.

John Major

We are planning the most extensive package of constitutional change ever proposed by a British government.

Tony Blair

My country is Britain; and Scotland. The two identities are complementary and enriching.

Michael Forsyth
Scottish Secretary

The idea that PR leads to short-lived coalition government is not just theoretical. *Take Italy* — there they have had 55 governments since the war.

John Major

In truth, I have never been persuaded that under PR, we can avoid a situation *where small parties end up* wielding disproportionate power.

Tony Blair

The House of Lords is a hard-working and serious reforming chamber. It provides another vital check on *the executive*.

Dr Brian Mawhinney
Conservative Party Chairman

What greater anachronism could there be in a democracy than the current House of Lords?

Jack Straw
Shadow Home Secretary

THE FACTS

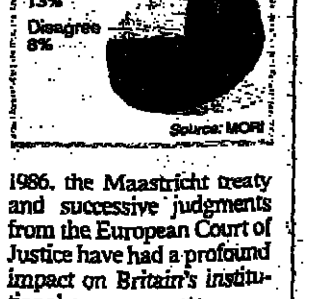
☐ Britain is alone among advanced democracies in *having no single document* that serves as a constitution. New Zealand, which had si*milar arrangements to the* UK, broke company in the 1980s when it passed the New *Zealand Constitution* Act.

☐ However, it would be inaccurate to describe our *constitution* as unwritten. Many parts of it are written down in statutes such as the *Bill of Rights 1688* or the Great Reform Act 1832.

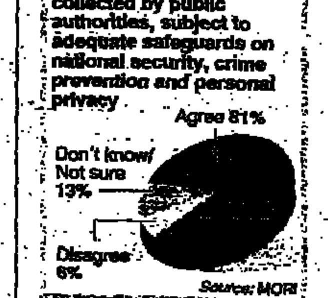
☐ The *most significant* constitutional changes of recent decades have flowed from our membership of the EU. The Single European Act of 1986, the Maastricht treaty and successive judgments from the European Court of Justice have had a profound *impact on Britain's institu*tional arrangements.

☐ Britain was a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights at its inception in 1950. *Since* 1966 individuals have been allowed to petition the court *in Strasbourg (which is not* related to the EU). The convention is not fully incorporated into British law.

☐ The Commons endorsed a change in the electoral system to the alternative vote method in 1930. *That* Parliament ended before the House of Lords could consider its adoption. Various PR *techniques* are used for almost all elections in Northern Ireland.

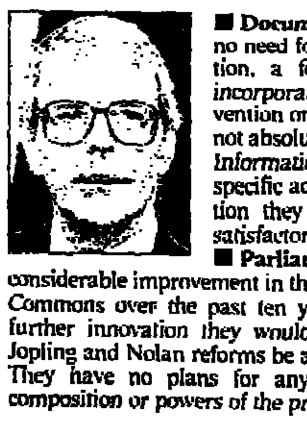

Britain needs a Bill of Rights to protect the liberty of the individual

Source: MORI


There should be a freedom of information act, giving the right of access to information collected by public authorities, subject to adequate safeguards on national security, crime prevention and personal privacy

Source: MORI

CONSERVATIVES



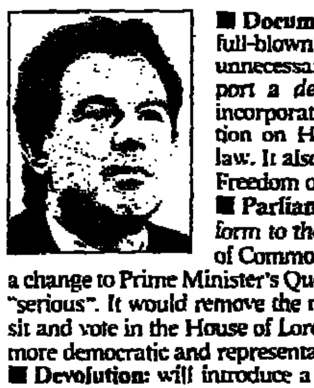
■ Documents: the Conservatives see no need for either a written constitution, a formal Bill of Rights, or *incorporation of the European* Convention on Human Rights. Although not absolutely hostile to a Freedom of *Information Act, they argue that the* specific additional access to information they have granted is a more *satisfactory* way of *proceeding.*

■ Parliament: the Tories point to a considerable improvement in the operation of the House of Commons over the past ten years. While not averse to further innovation *they would prefer that the ongoing* Jopling and Nolan reforms be allowed to run their course. They have no plans for any alteration in either the composition *or powers of the present House of Lords.*

■ Devolution: *strongly opposed. They argue that* assemblies in Scotland and Wales would serve as stalking horses for the eventual break-up of the United Kingdom. They also *point to the present over-representation of Scottish and* Welsh MPs at Westminster, which Labour has no plans to reverse. More fundamentally, they point to the unresolved "*West Lothian" question:* under devolution English MPs would have no say over health policy in Scotland but Scottish MPs would have a vote on how the NHS operated *in England.*

■ Electoral system: *strongly oppose* any shift towards proportional representation. They argue that continental experience proves PR is a recipe for unstable coalitions that award *disproportionate* authority to *minor parties* that happen to hold the balance of power.

LABOUR



■ Documents: Labour regards a full-blown written constitution as unnecessary. It does, however, support a *de facto* Bill of Rights by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. It also supports the passage of a Freedom of Information Act.

■ Parliament: favours further re*form to the procedures of the House* of Commons. In particular it favours a change to Prime Minister's Questions to make them more "serious". *It would remove the right of hereditary peers to* sit and vote in the House of Lords as a first *step towards* a more democratic and representative chamber.

■ Devolution: will introduce a referendum, consisting of *two questions,* with the objective *of introducing* a Scottish parliament with limited tax-changing powers. In Wales it supports an assembly with more modest authority to *supervise the actions of the Welsh Office. An Edinburgh* parliament would take overall authority of powers — in education, health and the legal system — currently *controlled by the Scottish Office in London. Within* England Labour favours regional assemblies where there is clear popular demand for them. London would have its *own directly elected body.*

■ Electoral system: pledges to hold a referendum on electoral reform at some point during a first term of office. *Tony Blair has not said that he supports the introduction of* a new system. It is unlikely that Labour would endorse the single transferable vote (STV) method favoured by Liberal Democrats, preferring the less radical alternative vote (AV) instead.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

■ Documents: *the Lib Dems would* introduce a written constitution. They also favour a British Bill of Rights and the *incorporation of the Euro*pean Convention on Human Rights into UK law. They favour an especial*ly broad Freedom of Information Act* that would confer a public right of access to government information.

■ Parliament: Paddy Ashdown favours sweeping changes to both Houses of Parliament. The Commons would serve for fixed four-year terms. *Its size* would gradually be reduced to 450 members from the *present* 651. *It would have an* enhanced mandate, greater powers and time to monitor the executive, scrutinise taxation and expenditure and consider legislation. *The House of Lords would be replaced by a new* 300-member chamber. At least 200 members would be elected to serve six-year terms. The remainder would be *appointed to serve one 12-year period* in office.

■ Devolution: favour powerful parliaments for both Scotland and Wales. They would introduce an elected Greater *London* assembly as soon as practicable. Other regional chambers would follow as and when citizens in each region decided that they wanted them. Local *authorities would* acquire an enhanced status and much greater financial autonomy through a local income tax.

■ Electoral reform: opposition to Britain's current electoral system has long been an article of faith. The introduction of PR for Westminster would require popular approval by the public in a referendum. The Lib Dems are sympathetic to direct democracy and would make regular use of the referendum.

Consortium earns £100m renting out MoD homes

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Japanese-led consortium that bought the Armed Forces' married quarters housing last year is already grossing millions of pounds from the deal.

Political opponents of the sale and housing analysts said at the time that the £1.66 billion sale price was too low because of the huge potential profits to be made over the long term.

More than 100 surplus Service houses have already been sold or are under offer since Annington Homes, financed by the Nomura International consortium, won the contract to buy the whole defence housing estate last September.

Another 2,600 surplus houses have been made available to the consortium by the Ministry of Defence for immediate sale. The MoD is also paying £106.8 million a year to lease back houses that it still requires for Service families.

Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter, deputy chairman of Annington Homes, and former director of public affairs for the RAF and former commander of British Forces in Cyprus, said that there were risks involved and profits were "not a foregone conclusion".

Annington Homes, set up by the Japanese investment house Nomura International with its partners, including the Royal Bank of Scotland and Abbey National, to mastermind the Service quarters takeover, has also been guaranteed an additional 600-700 houses a year for sale on the open market over the next 25 years, up to 17,500 extra homes.

With the average price for a house in England and Wales currently £66,000, housing experts said the total sale value of the surplus homes alone could be in excess of £1.3 billion at today's prices.

The sale of married quarters attracted much controversy last year. Labour and the Social Democrats, as well as a number of senior Tory backbenchers, were originally opposed to the sale. Concessions were agreed after Baroness Park of Monmouth, a highly-respected Tory peer, attempted to scupper the sale through an amendment to a Government housing Bill.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, remains convinced that he won a good deal over the sale and is confident that it will not be an election issue. "The Labour Party will never say that they will reverse the deal," he said.

Despite the guaranteed flow of rent and the potential profits to be made from the sale of surplus houses and redevelopment of estates in 25 years' time, Air Vice-Marshal Hunter said: "It will be a long haul. But we have to make sure that the investment we're making will support and attract a reasonable return."

He said the MoD would be clawing back a percentage of the profit from the surplus house sales and many of the older homes had been badly vandalised, requiring extensive repairs.

Under a profit-sharing agreement, Annington Homes is allowed all the profit from the first batch of sales. Then, over a period of 15 years, the MoD will receive 50 per cent of the sale price for two years, reducing to 10 per cent at the end of 15 years.

SURPLUS MOD HOMES NOW BEING SOLD OFF

Tube price is far too low, says Prescott

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

LABOUR claimed yesterday that leaked Cabinet documents showed that the Government was preparing to sell London Underground for a fraction of its worth.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said correspondence between John Major and Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, after last week's "brainstorming" session at Chequers revealed that Treasury proceeds from the sale could be as low as £600 million.

Labour said that the Government itself had estimated the value of the world's most extensive underground network at £13 billion. The leaked document had disclosed a "cold and calculating" attempt to defraud taxpayers.

The claims were dismissed as ludicrous by Steve Norris, the former Minister for London Transport, who was in office when the sale was first mooted. The cost of rebuilding the largely Victorian system from scratch would be £13 billion, "but its value to any investor is substantially less", he said — about £2.5 billion.

"The important point is that if there is a receipt to the taxpayer, that is all well and good. At the moment the taxpayer is having to find around £1 billion a year for the Tube and is still not getting the improvements in services we need quickly enough."

Petrol cost 'must rise to protect the globe'

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

PETROL prices need to double by 2010 and more coal-fired power stations must be shut if Britain is to meet its goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the early 21st century, a team of leading economists will claim today.

That will require the Government to extend its pledge to increase the tax on fuel by 5 per cent a year above inflation. The agreement is due to expire in 2000.

In 13 years' time, petrol will be at least £5.20 a gallon if the annual increase is preserved, without allowing for inflation, the researchers say.

The recommendations were criticised by the Automobile Association, which urged the Government to back a more hard-hitting energy savings drive, including more loft insulation programmes.

However the researchers, based at Cambridge Econometrics, believe that the increases are vital to tackle global warming and to maintain Britain's lead in cutting carbon emissions and its influence on negotiations.

Dr Paul Ekins of Keele University, one of the report's authors, said yesterday that the benefits of the increased duty, in terms of people driving fewer miles, buying more fuel-efficient cars and living closer to their work, were in danger of being lost unless the duty was kept until 2010.

ANTHONY UPTON

Protester Tim works on the tunnel at Manchester airport

Airport faces delay as Swampy pledges to dig in for new protest

By Lin Jenkins
and Russell Jenkins

Swampy at home with his parents Jill and Peter yesterday

DANIEL HOOPER, better known as Swampy, the A30 bypass protester who held up work for a week by burrowing underground, yesterday vowed to take the fight against land development to another site.

Manchester airport, where treehouses on the site of the planned second runway already stand sentry against the arrival of the bulldozers next month, is the most likely target.

Swampy, who ate a vegan Sunday lunch with his parents Peter and Jill at their four-bedroom home in Hazlemere, Buckinghamshire, said he had contemplated his next move while in the tunnels at Fairmile, Devon.

"I am going to have a little holiday and then go on to the next protest site and build a mega-tunnel. That could be along the site of the A30, or perhaps at Manchester airport or in Guildford," he said.

The bail conditions imposed on Swampy, who appeared last week at Exeter Magistrates' Court charged with obstruction, ban him from going within a kilometre either side of the A30 improvements. On Saturday he was fined £500 on other charges relating to Newbury bypass protest.

Swampy, due to return to Devon and the office of the campaign this morning, said of his underground exploit: "The amount of publicity it has achieved is amazing. Some people are beginning to realise we are not a bunch of layabouts who do nothing all day. I am going to continue, but I am not talking about it today. I will be back in the office in Devon tomorrow and will discuss it then."

At Guildford, Surrey, about half a dozen protesters are camped in the path of the widening of a single-lane stretch of the A320 to Woking after a public inquiry approved the scheme. The action group members in Manchester, some in makeshift huts on the ground, others perched in treehouses, are expecting an influx of supporters from the A30 site and have begun digging their first tunnel. The prospect of deep tunnels has alarmed the security teams and is likely to hasten legal moves to evict the protesters.

CARLTON 6pm Monday - Thursday

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Documentary focuses on landmine campaign

BBC backs Princess as goodwill ambassador

By Alan Hamilton

The Princess wearing body armour in Angola

THE ambitions of Diana, Princess of Wales, to be taken seriously as an international ambassador for good causes will receive a boost next week when BBC Television devotes a half-hour programme to her recent visit to Angola in which she campaigned against landmines.

During her four-day visit, which attracted worldwide attention, the Princess was accompanied by a crew from *Heart of the Matter*, BBC1's flagship religious affairs programme. Although off the air until Easter, it will screen a special edition on Tuesday of next week devoted to the Princess's crusade, which she undertook on behalf of the International Red Cross.

The BBC said yesterday that the programme would concentrate on the Princess's Angolan visit and would not include any references to her private life, unlike the *Panorama* interview of 1995 in which she attracted a record 20 million viewers for her confessions of marital strife and adultery.

Although still being edited, the new programme is expected to show the Princess talking to child victims of landmines and telling viewers that she regards herself as a successful promoter of good causes, if only because the international press follows her wherever she goes and gives her and her concerns huge amounts of free publicity.

On her first official foreign tour since her divorce last August, the Princess was accompanied by a large international press corps which included Karina Brennan, a producer for *Heart of the Matter* who occasionally presents the programme in the absence of Joan Bakewell.

"She is not a Martin Bashir figure," the BBC said yesterday, in a reference to the reporter who interviewed the Princess for her *Panorama* interview.

Most of the programme was filmed on location on Angola, and includes much footage already seen on the television news. The Princess, who had been the figurehead of the British Red Cross's 125th anniversary celebrations, severed her connections with the charity at the time of her divorce. She was persuaded to return by Lord Attenborough, the film producer, who is donating some of the profits of his screen adaptation of Hemingway's *A Farewell To Arms* to the anti-landmine campaign.

In her *Panoroma* interview, the Princess expressed a desire to assume a role as "queen of people's hearts" and to be an unofficial ambassador for Britain. Her remarks were seen by some as the words of a manipulative woman in search of status to replace her lost royalty. A visit to Argentina immediately after the programme, ostensibly to visit medical charities, was not the public relations success that she had hoped for.

But the Angola visit was clearly focused on a worldwide campaign against the evil of landmines which maim innocent people, and attracted extensive attention. The Ministry of Defence said old-fashioned mines would be replaced by "smart mines", that later self-destruct, for use in exceptional circumstances. It said that no anti-personnel mines had been exported from Britain for five years.

The Princess has been in talks with the Red Cross about further visits to Bosnia and Cambodia, two other countries littered with huge numbers of landmines from long periods of civil war, but officials are concerned that both areas may still be too dangerous for the Princess to venture into.

Royal godparents, page 16

K. VENKATESH/REUTER

The Duchess of York in Bangalore before meeting the controversial guru Sai Baba in Puttaparthi, 95 miles away. He was said to have produced a gold chain out *of the air for her. Critics dispute his powers and whether his funds go to charity*

Prescott says private sector would fund yacht

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT said yesterday that he had had talks with shipowners that indicated that a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* could be privately financed.

Speaking on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*, the deputy Labour leader, who has long argued for certain public enterprises to be privately financed, said there was "plenty of private money about" for the project.

Last month Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, made a surprise announcement in the Commons that the £60 million cost of replacing the yacht would be met entirely by taxpayers.

The Labour Party has so far refused to give any guarantees that it would fund the replacement if it wins the general election. Labour sources said yesterday that Mr Prescott's talks had disclosed that "it is entirely possible that the ship could be financed privately without any guarantee of public money or any embarrassing commercial implications for the Queen".

Letters, page 21

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Hunting couple lead press astray

By Alan Hamilton

SEPARATE appearances by the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles at the Beaufort Hunt last week lit the touchpaper of speculation in the Sunday newspapers — which totally disagreed on what, if anything, it all meant.

One view was that the heir to the Throne and his comforter of long-standing meant soon to bring their relationship into the open and possibly even to be photographed together, although she would never be there when his children were present. The intention, *The Sunday Times* hinted, was that the couple would eventually gain public acceptance, and might one day marry.

The Mail on Sunday claimed with equal certainty that they had accepted they would never marry and that the relationship would have to be conducted with maximum privacy.

Much was based on little. The Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles are both keen hunters. Last Monday they rode with the Beaufort on the same day but at different times, ensuring there were no highly saleable pictures of them together.

Mrs Parker Bowles had been invited to become patron of the National Osteoporosis Society, a charity for which she has worked for some time. The Prince would be highly unlikely to accompany her on official charity events.

A spokesman for Mrs Parker Bowles told *The Times* that neither she nor the Prince would do anything that might detract from the Queen's golden wedding commemorations this year. The Queen is known to be against a more prominent role for Mrs Parker Bowles; in that desire she is supported by opinion polls.

The Prince is understood to have made known to senior advisers that, while he is anxious to improve his public standing, the question of Mrs Parker Bowles is "non-negotiable".

Germ warfare trials met with stout resistance

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

MILLIONS of people were exposed to germs released by the Ministry of Defence during secret biological warfare tests between 1964 and 1977, the Defence Secretary has confirmed.

In one trial the germs were released at Waterloo Bridge and the Victoria Embankment in central London. In another they were sprayed into the air over Lyme Bay in Dorset.

The three types of organism released — including a strain of *E. coli* — are normally harmless. Being neither a puny baby, nor quite in my dotage, I would be happy to have the spores of *Bacillus globigii*, normally found on hay, sprayed on me, and would console myself that this would be no more dangerous than taking a walk through a meadow in the late summer, or spending an afternoon carrying hay bales.

One of the other organisms, Serratia marcescens, is found in soil and water. Anyone who spent an afternoon grubbing around a slow-flowing stream would expose themselves to more *S. marcescens* than would have been inhaled after the ministry scientists' experiments.

E. coli 0162 does not normally cause disease. There are scores of types of *E. coli* that colonise the guts of all animals, including humans. Some, like *E. coli 0157*, are, as the recent Scottish outbreak has shown, deadly to frail humans but tolerated by animals.

This benign picture of the effect of usually harmless organisms on a normal community is dependent on all those who live there having a standard immune system. However, the immune system is poor in small babies — particularly if they have been born prematurely — in the very aged and in those in whom it has been compromised by serious chronic disease. The immune system is also deficient in those who are taking steroids, including sufferers from asthma and inflammatory bowel disease, and in those born with a deficient immune system.

Patients with immunity disorders frequently suffer grievously from bacteria normally thought of as benign. There cannot be many doctors who have not read a pathologist's report citing the organism responsible for some disaster, and who have not been amazed that something so usually harmless could have caused such devastation.

One demonstration of the importance of an individual's resistance was witnessed by my father in the early years of this century when Lord Lister was speaking to graduates of King's College Hospital. Lord Lister, the great surgeon and microbiologist, held up a test-tube and declared that it contained enough typhoid to kill the whole of London, whereupon a tweed-clad old country doctor stomped up the aisle, seized the test-tube, drank its contents, muttered: "What a nonsense" and returned to his seat.

Next day at breakfast silence fell on the dining room when the old man came down to breakfast, but he had had a good night, enjoyed a hearty meal and lived for many years.

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over pain
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Families fear that relatives are being starved in hospital

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

HOSPITALS are accused of leaving patients dangerously underfed in a report by community health councils published today.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has been urged to investigate accusations by relatives that patients are starving to death. Many patients leave hospital undernourished because they are given the wrong type of food, or it is badly packaged, and they are unable to ask for help with eating, the Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales claims.

Families of elderly patients fear that they are being left to die through lack of food, the report says, but the problems also affect children, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

One relative in Kent told the author: "We feel there was a policy on the ward that if you were expected to recover, you were helped to eat. If not, you were left to fade away."

Another, from Wakefield, said: "Was my father ignored because he was elderly? My father would not have refused artificial feeding. I am distraught that my father should have been abandoned."

Angeline Burke, the author, writes that the relatives' concerns are extremely disturbing. "They must be given evidence and assurances that it has never been NHS policy to starve elderly people in hospital." She says there is evidence that hunger in hospital "can affect everyone going into hospital, not just elderly people".

People who had difficulty eating were given the wrong foods. "A 94-year-old stroke patient whose food had been liquidised due to her inability to swallow solids was given lumpy porridge on which she choked violently," a Berkshire respondent said. "Patients tried to raise the alarm but it was a long time before anyone was found to assist."

Vegetarians were simply given platefuls of the vegetables offered to meat-eaters. Food and drink was placed out of reach of patients. Blind and deaf people were unaware that their meals had arrived. Elderly, arthritic and handicapped patients had difficulty with packaging for sandwiches, yoghurts and biscuits. A Birmingham mother with two broken arms was given no help to eat for a week.

Allowing patients to choose their meals, as promised by the Patient's Charter, is counter-productive if they are too ill to make a choice. One woman, incapable of rational thought, ordered only a soup course for her Sunday lunch.

If meals were uneaten, hospitals assumed that patients did not want them. One man who could hardly speak and was unable to reach his food had his meals removed.

The report, *Hungry in Hospital?*, recommends that the Department of Health should clearly define the roles of staff at mealtimes.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Dr Stancliffe says some people think reference to the Devil is "much too vivid"

Church to debate mention of Devil in baptism service

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

CHURCH of England liturgists will this week debate whether godparents should pledge to "reject the Devil and all proud rebellion against God" when a baby is baptised.

Traditionalists want a return to dramatic imagery, to help godparents to understand the scale of the task they are taking on. But opponents fear that terms such as "Devil" and "proud rebellion" are too literal for many godparents and parents today, who may be unfamiliar with the traditional language of the Church.

Dr David Stancliffe, Bishop of Salisbury, who chairs the Church's Liturgical Commission, said some opponents wanted to omit any reference to the Devil. "There are people who think it is much too vivid and gives the power of evil a personality and face that they would not like to acknowledge."

But, he said, liturgists were aiming for a more vivid approach and a return to the language of the *1662 Book of Common Prayer*, which insisted that godparents "renounce the Devil and all his works" as well as "the carnal desires of the flesh".

The infant baptism service in the *1980 Alternative Service Book* is being reconsidered as part of the revision of the Church's entire liturgy in time for the millennium. Liturgists are keen that all parents should feel able to bring their babies for baptism, even where they or the godparents might be unsure of their faith.

Although one quarter of babies are still baptised in the Church of England, the numbers are declining. One reason could be the present insistence that parents and godparents, who speak as proxy for the infants, must be full-fledged Christians.

The new service, although returning to the stronger language of the past, will soften the responses made by godparents, no longer demanding that they make promises they feel they cannot keep. The changes will be debated this week by a committee of the Liturgical Commission, and later go to the General Synod.

Royal godparents, pages 16, 17

Patients' bodies frozen to treat brain aneurysm

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

SURGEONS have developed a radical treatment for patients with a serious brain disorder which involves freezing the body and draining the brain of blood.

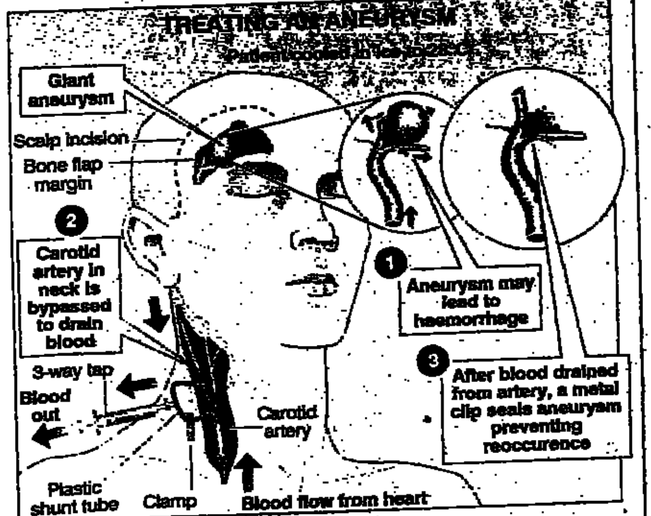
Sixteen patients have been successfully treated with the technique in which the brain is put into a state of suspended animation for up to 30 minutes while the surgeon operates. The patients had giant brain aneurysms, a swelling in a brain artery caused by a weakness in the arterial wall and which can be as large as an orange. The swelling can press on the optic nerve, causing blindness, or rupture, leading to a stroke, disability or death.

Terence Hope, consultant neurosurgeon at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, who developed the technique said: "Thirty per cent of victims suffer stroke-like weakness or loss of vision and 20 per cent die. Our 16 patients are all out of hospital and doing well."

Normal brain surgery for aneurysms involves placing a clip across the neck of the swelling to prevent it growing. However, when the swelling is too big it obscures the surgeon's vision making the procedure dangerous.

In the Nottingham technique, the patient's body is cooled with ice until the temperature falls from the normal 37C to 28C. This is a degree above the point at which the heart stops and brain metabolism is slowed to half of normal. Surgeons then expose the carotid artery in the neck and fix a syringe in place which can withdraw blood while at the same time operating on the brain. The technique allows the surgeon a window of about 30 minutes to complete the procedure without damaging the rest of the brain.

Ian Townsend, 47, a policeman who underwent the operation last October, will be back on the beat today after three months' convalescence. He was sent to hospital after a 24-hour headache and a brain scan revealed an orange-sized swelling. "I was told I was going to die or I could take my chance with the operation. I told them to give me the consent form," he said. "I'm now absolutely fine. I am extremely pleased to be here."


TREATING AN ANEURYSM
Giant aneurysm
Scalp incision
Bone flap margin
2
Carotid artery in neck is bypassed to drain blood
3-way tap
Blood out
Plastic shunt tube
Clamp
Carotid artery
Blood flow from heart
1
Aneurysm may lead to haemorrhage
3
After blood drained from artery, a metal clip seals aneurysm preventing reoccurence

Confusion over pain in chest

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

WIDESPREAD confusion about the difference between indigestion and heart attack is putting people's lives at risk, a heart charity says today.

Many people are unaware that a pain that feels like indigestion may also be a sign of a heart attack, leading them to lose vital minutes in seeking help.

A survey of 2,000 people conducted for the British Heart Foundation found that 62 per cent were aware that chest pains were a symptom of a heart attack, 43 per cent mentioned breathlessness and 30 per cent pain in the left arm. However, there was little awareness that a pain that felt like indigestion could be the pain of a heart attack or heart disease.

Although indigestion is not a symptom of a heart attack, the survey, which included 300 heart patients, found 40 per cent had experienced an indigestion-like pain prior to their attack.

Change 'as good as rest' for workers

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

TIRED nightworkers concentrate best if they regularly change colleagues, research has revealed.

Tests on Canadian Army reservists kept awake for 60 hours showed they performed tasks better when they alternated between different work partners. When given drugs to try to keep them awake, the guinea pigs felt better but performed worse. Those who were given dummy pills and admitted feeling awful kept up their efforts better.

Dr Ellen Bard, of the Human Communications Research Centre at Edinburgh University, who reported on the tests, said: "Variety and novelty are a good stimulus. If you have to study into the night, study with a couple of equally miserable friends. Or if you have to work through the night, it may be better to schedule a meeting with colleagues at 3am rather than trying to do routine tasks on your own."

Never mind the January sales, here's the latest round of BT price cuts.

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	Weekend	£1.80	£1.17	35%	87.6p
USA/Canada	Daytime	£1.49	£1.19	20%	88.6p
	Evening	£1.41	£1.13	20%	84.2p
	Weekend	£1.31	£1.05	20%	78.2p
France/Germany	Daytime	£1.78	£1.43	20%	£1.07
	Evening	£1.49	£1.34	10%	£1.00
	Weekend	£1.30	£1.17	10%	87.6p
Australia/ New Zealand	Daytime	£2.73	£2.45	10%	£1.84
	Evening	£2.33	£2.10	10%	£1.58
	Weekend	£2.21	£1.99	10%	£1.49
Nigeria	Daytime	£6.56	£5.26	20%	£3.94
	Evening	£5.53	£4.95	10%	£3.72
	Weekend	£4.95	£4.45	10%	£3.34
Israel	Daytime	£5.68	£3.98	30%	£2.98
	Evening	£4.59	£3.67	20%	£2.76
	Weekend	£4.25	£3.38	20%	£2.54

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Democracy falters as voters face grim choice in Pakistan

Christopher Thomas in Lahore reports that Imran Khan can make little impact in a struggle marred by corruption

PAKISTANIS go to the polls today, for the fourth time in eight years, faced with a choice between two leaders with records for running corrupt governments. Imran Khan, the former cricket captain struggling to become a "third force", will make no more than a token impact after an almost one-issue campaign against official fraud.

Benazir Bhutto, sacked twice for corruption, and Mian Nawaz Sharif, sacked once, are the only viable party leaders on offer to the 56 million registered voters, most of whom will stay away in disgust.

Every parliament elected since 1988 has been dismissed by the army or with its blessing. The chances of the new government surviving a full five years are remote: the future of the country's struggling democracy is at stake.

Mr Khan will evaluate the future of his Justice Movement, and thus his own political future, after the results are in. The party had barely five months to prepare for the elections after it was formed, and fielded only 135 candidates for the 217-seat National Assembly — an impressive performance, given that it started with no grassroots organisation or prospect for victory. The party plans to reorganise itself after the polls, and Mr Khan insists he will not quit politics.

His last rally on Saturday in Lahore — Miss Bhutto and Mr Sharif also wound up their campaigns in Punjab — was a lacklustre affair dampened by rain. In a final attempt to keep Miss Bhutto out of the race, Mr Khan's party filed a petition in the Lahore High Court yesterday demanding her disqualification on the ground that she is corrupt. "We may be too late to stop her running, but there is no reason why she cannot be disqualified later," Nasim Zehra, a member of the Justice Movement's executive committee, said. "We will be pursuing this after the election."

Imran Khan ends his political campaign in Lahore

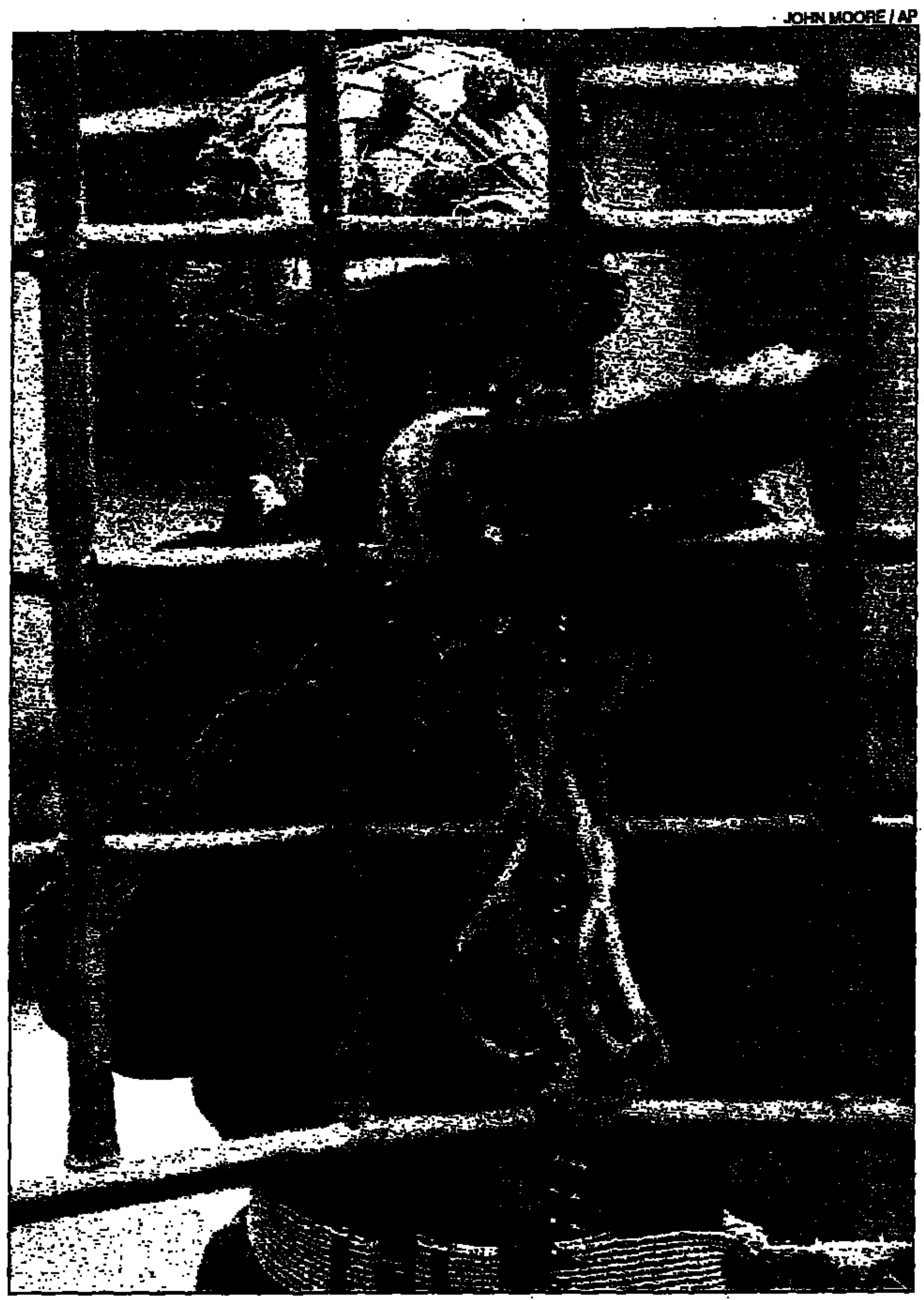
Punjab is where elections are won and lost. Opinion polls put Mr Sharif in the lead, although without an overall majority, raising the prospect of another weak coalition running a divided country on the edge of political, economic and social collapse.

Most of the main state institutions — from Pakistan International Airlines to the nationalised banks — are close to insolvency; there are more than three million drug addicts; a gun culture affects every region; only one elected government has lasted a full term; legitimate policing has all but collapsed; and Pakistan ranks 132 out of 173 in the United Nations index of social well-being. This is not an auspicious background to the country's 50th anniversary in August.

Many analysts say the election is the last chance for democracy. If the incoming government becomes as corrupt and inept as previous elected ones, the army may be forced formally to step in. The military will closely oversee immediate political developments through the controversial National Defence and Security Council, formed last month by President Leghari. The ten-member body, headed by the President, includes the chiefs of the three armed services and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, together with the Prime Minister and ministers for defence, interior, finance and foreign affairs. It gives the generals a formal and doubtless dominant role in politics. Critics say it amounts to military rule.

President Leghari, who sacked Miss Bhutto on November 5, has set an agenda for privatisation, taxation and other economic reforms which he says "will have to be followed through by the next government". If he remains adamant, the economic programmes of the main parties will be rendered all but redundant: Mr Leghari's law will prevail. Any Prime Minister challenging him, and by extension the army, would create a political crisis.

JOHN MOORE / AP



A Pakistani soldier, one of 250,000 supervising the election, in Lahore yesterday

Gulf awaits royal visit amid fears of Saddam attack

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

THE Prince of Wales is due to visit Kuwait this month, at a time when American and Kuwaiti officials have given warnings that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq could be poised to make another lightning strike against the oil-rich emirate.

Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, Kuwait's Information Minister, claimed at the weekend that Iraq had between 150,000 and 180,000 troops only 30 miles north of the 130-mile border with Kuwait.

"If they get instructions to move, it will not take them more than a few hours to reach us," said the minister, a member of the ruling royal family whose own army of 20,000 troops is still in the process of rebuilding after the Iraqi occupation in 1990-91.

The sheikh's warning came after a new war of words between Baghdad and the West, sparked by the claim last week by a senior US military officer who quoted intelligence sources as reporting that Saddam "comes in every morning and makes a decision" on whether his forces should move towards Kuwait.

The American claim was followed by more charges from Kuwait that Iraq was busy reinforcing its units in the south and a report by two Iraqi dissident groups based in Jordan that two brigades of Iraqi special forces, totalling 6,000 men, had been sent to the southern port of Basra. The city, which was damaged during the Gulf conflict, is 300 miles south of Baghdad and only about 30 miles from the Kuwaiti frontier.

Security experts believe that Saddam might be planning some military activity against Kuwait to mark the sixth anniversary of his February defeat, which Iraqi propaganda still depicts as a victory.

One well-placed source sai "A new strike against Kuwa although improbable from t point of view of logic, could a way for Saddam to dive attention from troubles home where he is involved ir family feud and his oldest s [Uday] is in a hospital b with bullets in his spine."

The Kuwaiti claim of troo massing north of its bor were denied in Baghd Hamed Youssef Humma the Iraqi Information Min ter, said that the remarks his Kuwaiti counterpart w "falsehood and fabrication"

The Prince's Gulf trip from February 21 to 26, sta ing in Kuwait and also taki in Bahrain and Qatar. In unusual clash with Washi ton, anonymous British G ernment officials in Lond last week played down t warnings, claiming that the was no unusual military act ity in Iraq despite "colourf American claims of a ne power struggle there.

"There is no sign of a special military preparatio or anything of that kind," o British official said.

The Prince's visit to Bahrai is set against the backgroun of a two-year secret wa against Iranian-backed inso gents from the Shia Musli majority. Since an uprising exploded in squalid Shia villages close to the gleaming capital Manama in 1994, the conflict has gone largely unreported due to strict censorhip.

□ ***Baghdad:*** *Diplomats and* United Nations employees have been stealing Iraqi artefacts and selling them to a smuggling ring, the director of Iraq's archaeological department, said. *(AFP)*

Mobutu seeks military help after setback for mercenaries

By Sam Kiley
Africa Correspondent

PRESIDENT MOBUTU of Zaire arrives in Morocco today for talks with King Hassan in an attempt to obtain military support after a government offensive led by mercenaries appeared to falter.

The Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation Congo-Zaire, a coalition of rebel groups including Tutsi guerrillas and Mai Mai tribal warriors, advanced on the mineral-rich Shaba province and opened up more battle lines in the northeast of Zaire to muddle the mercenaries' plans.

Laurent Kabila, the leader of the uprising, boasted at the weekend that the government offensive had been thwarted by his men. In Kinshasa, government sources agreed that the counter-attack by a revamped — and recently paid — army with mercenary leadership was "not going as well as expected".

Viewed by France, Belgium and Morocco as the only man who can hold Zaire together in the face of the rebel uprising in the east, President Mobutu has prostate cancer, for which he has been receiving chemotherapy in the south of France. He is expected to fly to his capital, Kinshasa, on Saturday, having left France yesterday for the talks in Morocco.

□ Kigali: An unidentified gunman shot and killed Father Guy Pinard, 61, a Canadian Roman Catholic priest of the White Fathers missionary order, during Mass yesterday in Kampanga, a village in northwest Rwanda, a Canadian diplomat and Rwandan officials said. *(Reuter)*

Air crash blamed on water in fuel

From Agence France-Presse
in Dakar

SURVIVORS of an aircraft which crashed in southern Senegal, killing 23 people, claimed yesterday that water might have got into the plane's fuel, causing its engines to fail.

The Air Senegal flight carrying 52 people, nearly all French tourists, crashed soon after taking off from Tambacounda airport, 250 miles southeast of Dakar, on Saturday afternoon, then caught fire. The passengers had been on a safari to the Niokolo-Kobe national park.

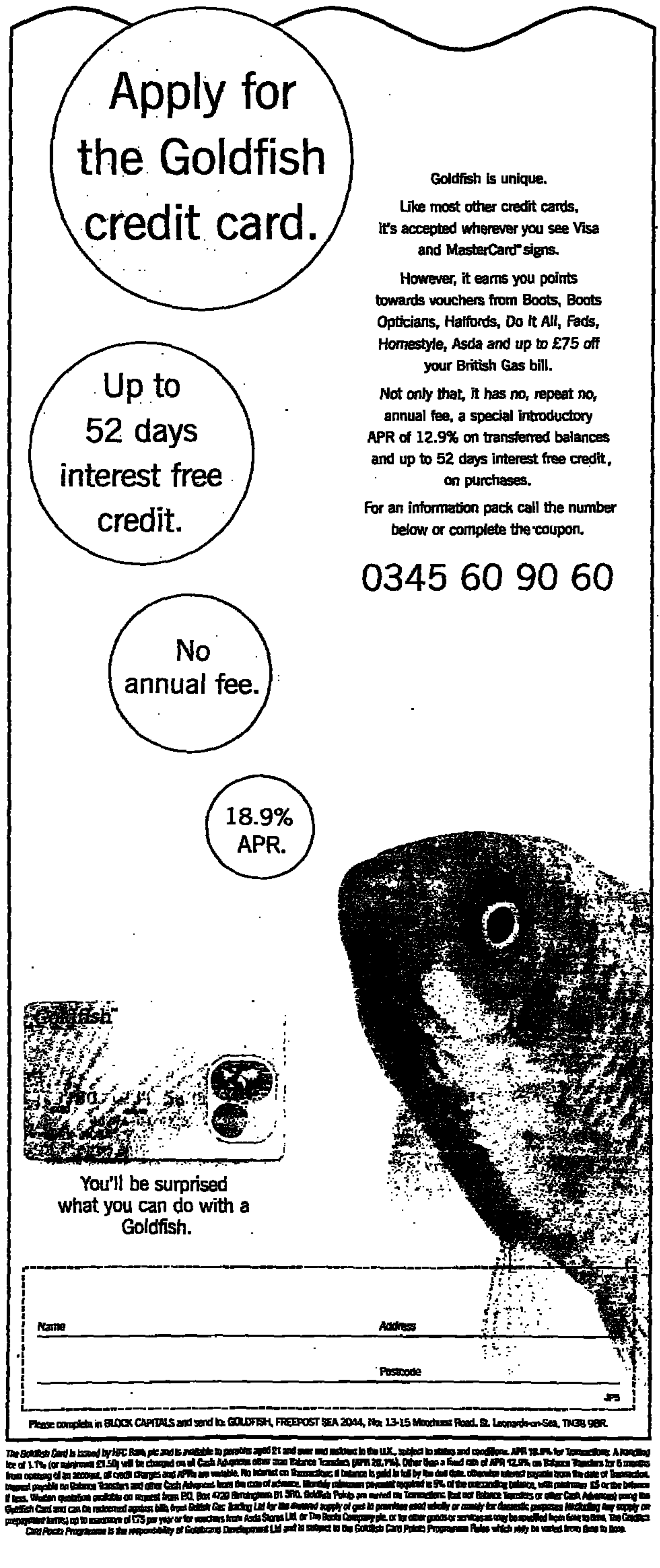
The two pilots, one of whom was said to be the son of the President of Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo Vieira, were killed along with a third crew member.

Most of those killed had been sitting at the front of the plane, which apparently broke in two before it crashed. Twenty-nine French passengers were flown to Dakar overnight, and 16 of them were being treated in the emergency ward of the main hospital. Medical sources said two of the most badly burnt survivors were being sent home to France last night.

Survivors said in Dakar that they believed water in the fuel had caused the crash. "When they fuelled the plane, they found water at the bottom of the storage barrels," one injured man said. Passengers said the mechanics had checked the pump filters and then removed them before pumping the fuel directly from the barrels into the plane.

Senegalese radio quoted survivors as saying the plane's right engine cut out just before the crash. "When we got to the end of the runway, the engines revved up and it was working okay. But after 30 seconds the engines stopped and we came down," one witness said.

Bernard Chereau, Mayor of Villamblain in the Loiret region, also blamed water in the fuel. "Officials said the water was not in the fuel but in the pump, which came out of the Ark. They took out the filters before pumping."



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Criminal linked to Mafia was guest at White House

From Ian Brodie in Washington

MORE contrition flowed from the White House yesterday after the disclosure that a convicted felon with alleged links to the Mafia sipped coffee with President Clinton.

The White House special counsel, Lanny Davis, acknowledged that the guest, Eric Wynn, was not an appropriate person to have been invited to enjoy much prized "face time" with the President.

The admission is the latest embarrassment for Mr Clinton in Washington's burgeoning scandal over the flock of wealthy contributors to the Democratic Party who were rewarded with perks ranging from presidential coffee *klatches* to overnight stays in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House.

Mr Clinton or his officials have already apologised for invitations extended to a convicted drug dealer and the owner of a Chinese arms company now under investigation by American authorities. The White House admits that its vetting rules were too lax and is working on procedures for closer screening of those invited.

Wynn, a New Jersey stock promoter, was among eight guests who joined Mr Clinton and senior Democratic fundraisers for coffee four days before Christmas, 1995. Five months earlier, he had been convicted for stock manipulation. According to court evidence, he set up an account to benefit the wife and three children of Frank Coppa, identified in federal documents as a captain in the Bonanno crime family, *The Washington Post* reported.

Another beneficiary was Richard Tienken, said to be the business partner of a *capo* in the Luchese crime family. The partner turned informer and appeared as a government witness at a Mafia trial after learning that the Luchese family had put out a contract for his murder. Later the Democratic National Committee returned a $25,000 (£15,000) donation from Mr Tienken as "inappropriate" and $50,000 to a company associated with him.

The *Post* said Wynn, who is in his late thirties, defrauded investors of millions and had already served two years in prison after pleading guilty to theft and tax charges in 1989. Last September Wynn was sentenced to 52 months in prison and fined $50,000 in the stock fraud case. He is on bail pending an appeal.

Last week Mr Clinton admitted "mistakes were made" in his drive for millions of campaign dollars, including the presence of his senior banking regulator at a meeting with party fundraisers and 17 American bankers.

Mr Clinton insists that his chats with donors had no bearing on policy, but doubts are setting in. A critical editorial in *The New York Times* yesterday said: "There is a pressing need for Mr Clinton to stop trying to fool people into thinking the access racket is an innocuous conversational exercise."

Republicans in Congress are preparing to hold hearings and are urging Mr Clinton to appoint an independent counsel to determine whether campaign funds were solicited within the White House.

Mr Clinton has insisted: "I never made a decision for anybody because they were a contributor of mine." But this week's *Time* magazine reports that Alan Solomont, a leading fundraiser and a lobbyist for nursing homes, successfully persuaded Clinton administration officials to make concessions on stringent proposals for regulating nursing homes. Mr Solomont is now the Democratic Party's finance chairman.

Darlie Routier, who could face the death sentence

Sobbing mother found guilty of killing son, 5

Kerrville, Texas: A suburban housewife who claimed an intruder stabbed her two sons to death before slashing her throat has been convicted of killing one of the boys.

Darlie Routier, 27, sobbed before the verdict and continued crying afterwards, insisting: "I did not kill my babies." Her husband and other relatives, many wearing shirts bearing pictures of the boys, wept. Mrs Routier could be sentenced to death or life in prison. "We didn't lose. She'll come home," her husband, Darin Routier, said.

Mrs Routier was on trial for the death of her son, Damon, aged five. She was convicted of capital murder. She was also charged with a second count of capital murder for killing both sons, but a trial has not yet been scheduled. "We are relieved," Greg Davis, for the prosecution, said.

Prosecutors said Mrs Routier killed Damon and six-year-old Devon on June 6 last year because she was angry over money problems and the weight she had gained during pregnancy. They said she slashed herself in an attempt to fool the police. *(AP)*

RON HEFLIN / AP

Five-year-old Damon, right, who was knifed by his mother, with brother Devon

Force is still with revived Star Wars

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

Darth Vader: anti-hero back with a vengeance

MEN strode up Hollywood Boulevard dressed as Imperial Stormtroopers. Their children waved battered toy light sabres at the opening credits. Students forgot their looming exams for a night and camped out to buy tickets for five consecutive screenings. The force was back.

It was the weekend when *Star Wars* pulled off a dramatic second coming, reappearing on the big screen for the first time in 17 years and drawing droves of young, obsessed, or merely nostalgic filmgoers to 1,800 cinemas across America. It was expected to re-enter the terrestrial box office charts at number one.

Not content with founding the most successful film franchise, George Lucas, the *Star Wars* writer and director, has spent $15 million (£9 million) sprucing up the 20-year-old rolls of celluloid to redefine the blockbuster from the year that Elvis Presley died and Jimmy Carter was inaugurated President.

Mr Lucas has also added four and a half minutes of computerised animatronics to the original, apparently to justify calling it a 'special edition'.

Critics have played along with grandiose tributes to the film's enduring appeal. It "celebrates the past, not the future," mused Edward Rothstein of *The New York Times*.

Spencer Jordan, five, took a more jaded view. He liked the fresh effects, but appeared unimpressed by the film's space battles, some of which now seem dated, having spawned a generation of ever more eye-popping special effects.

Of the $4 billion (£2.5 billion) earned by *Star Wars* and its two sequels, barely a quarter has come from ticket sales. The rest has poured in from video tapes and games, CD-ROMs, books, comics, clothes and $1.2 billion-worth of toys.

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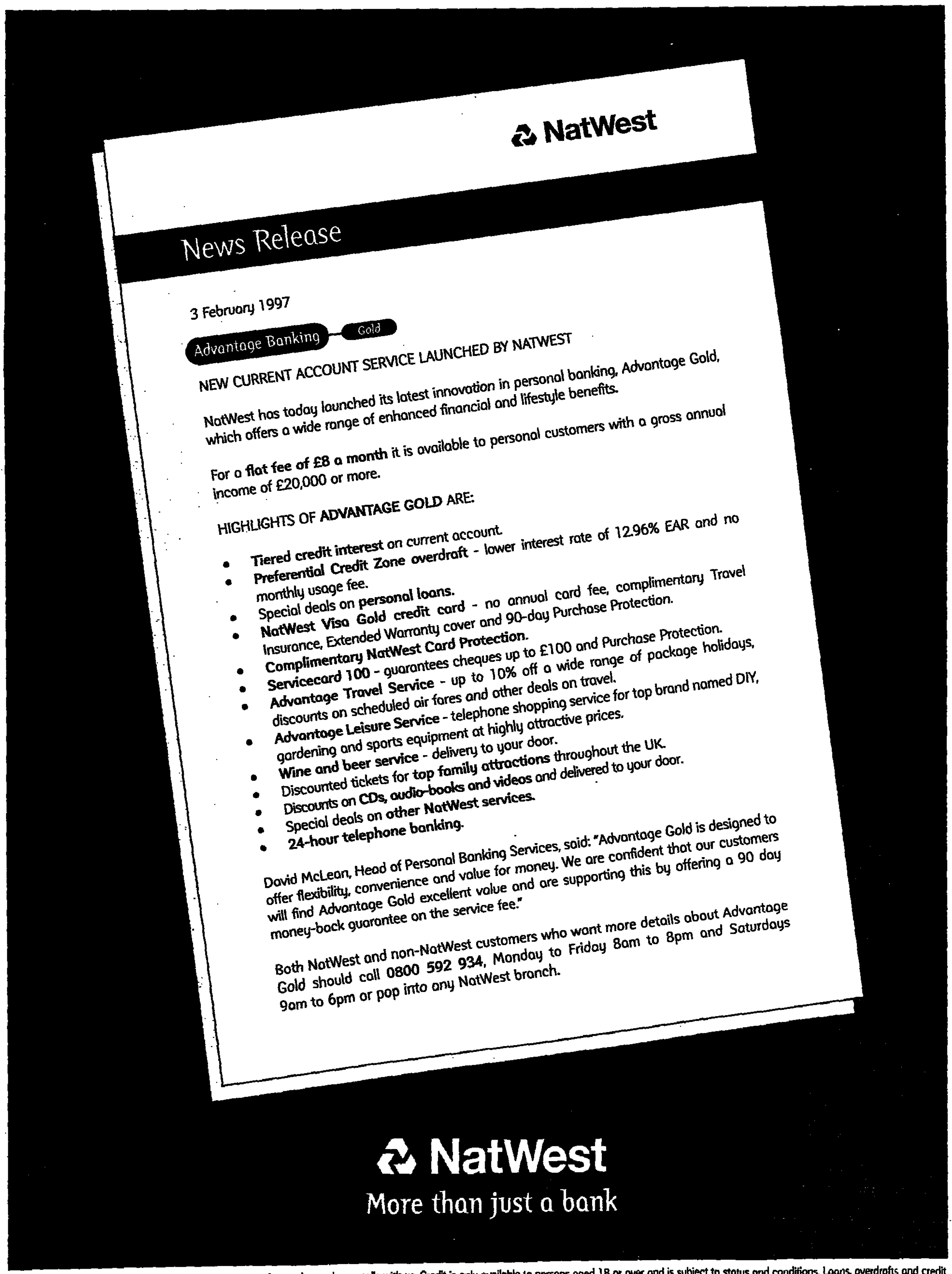

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News Release

3 February 1997

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STEFFEN SCHMIDT/REUTERS

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli leader, wipes his face after a speech yesterday

Israel peace talks to resume

Arafat, Netanyahu and Mubarak overcome hostility to set date for Gaza negotiations

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY
IN DAVOS

ISRAELI and Palestinian leaders said yesterday that they would resume full-scale negotiations on the implementation of peace agreements after a six-month breakdown in the Middle East peace process. But there were clear signs of continuing hostility after the first day of talks in several months between the Palestinian, Israeli and Egyptian leaders.

Speaking after their separate bilateral discussions Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, and President Mubarak of Egypt, gave conflicting accounts of what had been agreed and of the atmosphere of their discussions on the fringes of the World Economic Forum at this Swiss mountain resort.

Mr Netanyahu said the new round of meetings, to begin on Thursday in Gaza, would mark a new beginning and expressed his great hope that the forward momentum in the peace process could now be resumed.

However, Mr Arafat was markedly less optimistic, saying that the Israeli Government's tacit support of illegal Jewish settlements on Palestinian territory, its punitive economic sanctions against the Palestinian people and its failure to implement the Hebron peace agreements were threatening the achievement of a durable peace, not only in the Palestinian territories, but in the Middle East as a whole.

Mr Arafat said Israeli restrictions of the movement of people and goods between Israel and the Palestinian territories were costing Palestinians $7 million (£4.2 million) a day. Palestinian national income had fallen 35 per cent in 1996 and private investment in the territories had slumped to $250 million from $700 million, he added.

President Mubarak, who spoke to Mr Netanyahu for the first time yesterday after a six-month boycott on direct contacts, also demanded that Mr Netanyahu abide "faithfully and fully" by peace agreements and noted that Mr Arafat had arrived in Davos in a "pessimistic" mood. "I am working with anybody for the sake of peace. I have no sensitivity in that direction at all," Mr Mubarak said.

Mr Arafat and President Mubarak pointedly turned down the opportunity to share a platform with the Israeli Prime Minister. Instead of appearing simultaneously on the platform, as they had done in past sessions of the World Economic Forum, each leader spoke separately.

To underline the chill which had entered Israeli-Palestinian relations, Mr Arafat went out of his way to pay an emotional tribute to Shimon Peres, the former Prime Minister, and walked from his podium into the audience to shake Mr Peres's hand.

In an emotional speech to the 1,000 top businessmen assembled at Davos, Mr Arafat accused Mr Netanyahu of breaching the Oslo and Madrid peace agreements and of inflicting a "collective punishment" on the Palestinian people through his bans on economic activity and travel in the Palestinian areas. He charged that Israel was acting illegally by allowing continuing Jewish settlement in the Palestinian areas and broke into English during his speech to emphasise this point.

Later he also accused the Israeli Government of tacitly supporting the Islamic extremists whose terrorism has jeopardised the peace process. "It is the Israeli Government which has established the fanatic groups Hamas and Jihad to compete with the PLO," he said.

Pope calls for open Jerusalem

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE POPE will today seek to persuade Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that Jerusalem should be "internationalised" to ensure access to their holy places for all the great religions, and to allow Palestinians to take part in the administration of the city alongside Israelis.

Diplomats said Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, believed the status of Vatican City could serve as a model for the future of Jerusalem.

Today's meeting will be the first between Mr Netanyahu and the Pope. The Israeli Prime Minister is expected to invite the Pope to visit the Holy Land "in the near future" rather than waiting for 2000.

The Pope, although 76 and in frail health, has said he hopes to follow in the footsteps of Abraham and Moses by touring the Middle East at the turn of the millennium by climbing Mount Sinai with Jewish and Muslim leaders in a gesture of reconciliation between the three great monotheistic religions.

Israel regards Jerusalem as its "eternal capital". The internationalisation of the city as a "corpus separatum" was part of the United Nations peace plan of 1947, which collapsed when the British Mandate in Palestine gave way to open war between the then embryonic Jewish state and the Arabs.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Algerian extremists cut off victims' heads

Paris: Muslim extremists killed 31 people in an Algerian town, and one man, described as a dwarf, hacked off the victims' heads with an axe and knife, *El Watan* newspaper reported in Algiers yesterday. Algeria's latest night of horror was confirmed by a source close to the security forces, who said they believed the victims belonged to five families all related to a dissident member of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). "He was Sid Ali Bouhdgar, who split from the main group and had formed his own group," the source said from Algiers.

"More than 30 people had their throats cut," the newspaper quoted a resident as saying. "A dwarf, sometimes using an axe, sometimes a knife, cut the heads from the bodies. It was a security patrol, passing there a little later, which prevented the whole district being massacred." At least 225 people have died during the fasting month of Ramadan. *(Reuter)*

Wave of bombs in Corsica

Ajaccio: Corsican separatist guerrillas defied a French government crackdown to mount a show of force in the Mediterranean island yesterday, exploding 58 mostly tiny bombs in a few hours. There were no injuries in the pre-dawn blitz and damage was mostly limited to smashed windows or damaged doorways at post offices, tax offices and other symbols of French state authority in towns and villages.

Investigators thought 120 to 150 people were involved in the attacks. The outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) Historic Wing, seeking to prove it has not been crushed by the detention of three leaders in recent weeks, said it planted the 58 bombs and four others that failed to explode. *(Reuter)*

Tapie faces night in jail

Douai, France: The bankrupt French businessman and former Marseilles soccer boss Bernard Tapie, left, faces a first night in jail today. Under French law the former Cabinet minister, who has expressed terror at the idea of prison, must spend the night behind bars before the Supreme Court rules tomorrow on his final appeal against an eight-month sentence for a role in bribing players to fix a soccer match. He has previously used a barrage of appeals to stave off jail convictions.

Curfew on Taipei teenagers

Taipei: Taipei has imposed a curfew on teenagers under 18, the Mayor of Taiwan's capital city announced yesterday. He warned proprietors of cinemas, karaoke bars, coffee shops, nightclubs, bowling alleys and other recreation venues that their business licences would be revoked if they served patrons under 18 during the curfew hours of midnight to 5am. Errant teenagers would be held at police stations until their parents took them home. He said enterprises should share with parents and the Government the responsibility of protecting young people. The curfew would be lifted on the day before a holiday. *(AFP)*

Jail attacked in bikers' feud

Copenhagen: An anti-tank grenade was fired into a jail housing members of the Bandidos biker gang early yesterday, injuring one gang member in his cell who was being held pending trial in connection with an October anti-tank grenade attack on the Hell's Angels compound in Copenhagen. In the October attack, two people were killed and 19 injured. Police said yesterday's grenade, fired from a nearby road, apparently did not explode after breaking through the cell window. Several people with links to Hell's Angels had been arrested. *(AP)*

Rebels defy Fujimori

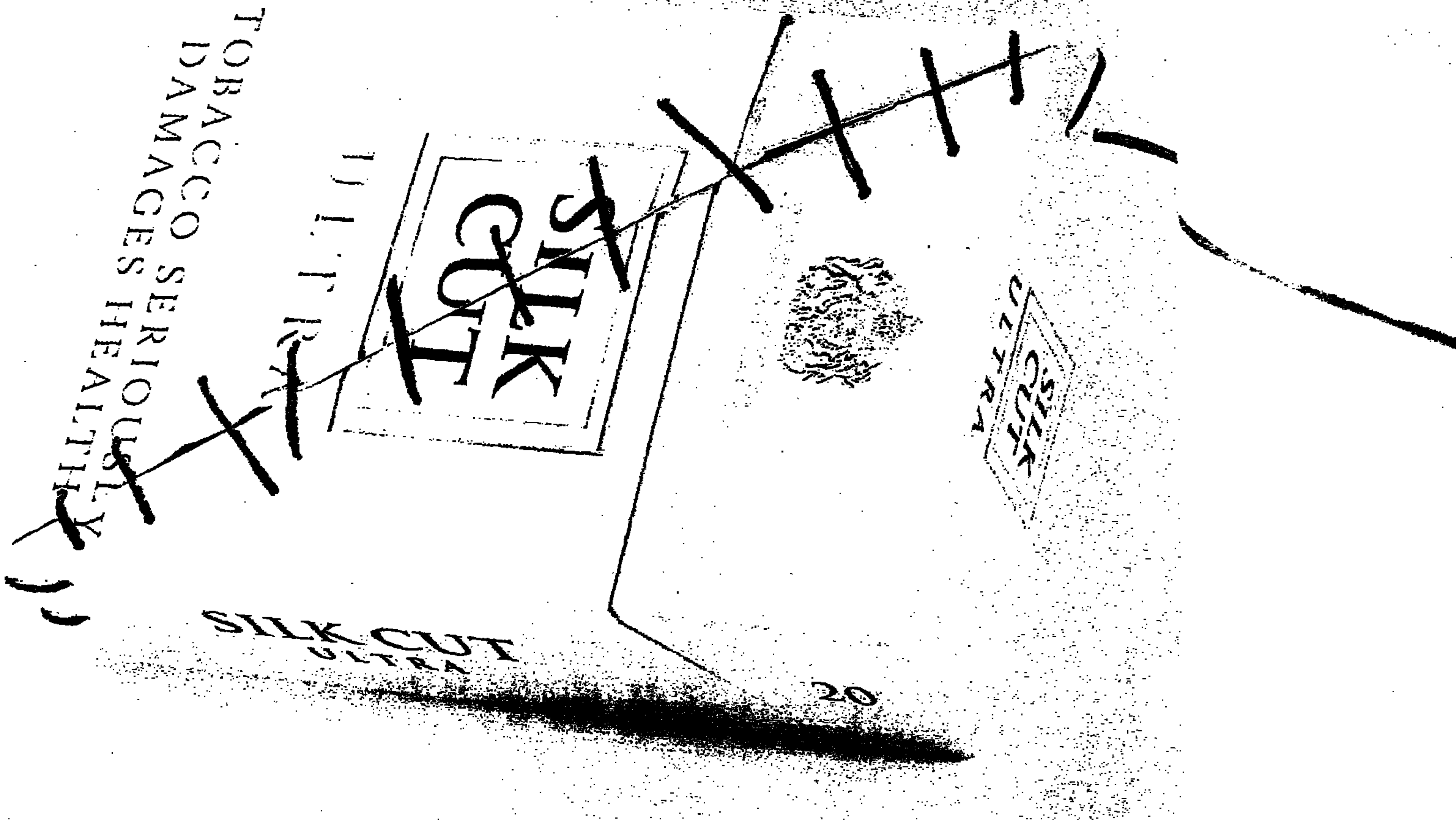
Washington: An international spokesman for Peruvian rebels holding 72 hostages in Lima denied claims by Alberto Fujimori, the Peruvian President, right, that they had "implicitly" agreed to drop their main demand that hundreds of jailed comrades should be freed (Ian Brodie writes). Nestor Cerpa, leading the Tupac Amaru group, told Spanish newspapers that he and his followers were ready to die if Peru resorted to force. He added that they would not release any more hostages.

'Mr San Francisco' dies

New York: Herb Caen, the veteran newspaper columnist known as "Mr San Francisco", has died aged 80 (Quentin Letts writes). Mr Caen, who was credited with inventing the term "beatnik", wrote for the *San Francisco Chronicle* over six decades. Asked once to predict his fate after death, he replied: "I'll do what every other San Franciscan does who goes to Heaven — he looks around and says, 'It ain't bad, but it ain't San Francisco'." President Clinton was among those who paid tribute to him.

Child barred over nailfile

Ocala, Florida: A five-year-old girl was suspended from kindergarten for a day for taking a nailfile to school in violation of a zero-tolerance policy on items that resemble weapons. The girl was the first Emerald Shores Elementary School pupil to be suspended under the rule, developed by parents, teachers, community representatives and administrators amid concerns over items such as pocket-knives at school. *(AP)*



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Police on scent of truffle-dog thieves

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

POLICE are on the scent of a gang of truffle-dog thieves in the south of France, who have stolen more than dozen of the animals used to track down the delicacy.

Truffle-dogs, which have largely taken over from pigs as man's best friends in sniffing out the prized underground fungus and can be sold for up to £1,800 each, take at least two years to train and the thefts have deeply divided truffle-hunters.

"We are ready to take out the guns in what can only be described as the 'Truffle Connection'," one truffle-gatherer from the village of Saint-Didier in the Vaucluse region told *Le Parisien*. Truffles sell wholesale for up to £100 a pound and police suspect that unscrupulous hunters are stealing the dogs to avoid the expense of training their own.

Energetic Yeltsin meets Chirac for three hours

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin, seeking to convince the world of his return to health and continued ability to lead Russia, held three hours of talks yesterday with President Chirac of France, the first foreign leader to meet him since his stay in hospital last month with double pneumonia.

Official television pictures from the start of the meeting showed the two leaders embracing warmly at the entrance to the Novo-Ogaryova presidential residence, 15 miles west of Moscow. As they walked into the building, they were laughing and talking animatedly.

The talks were extended by an hour from the two hours originally scheduled. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, said this indicated their importance. But there was little doubt that the main aim of the extension was to bolster repeated Kremlin assurances of the Russian President's restored energy and vigour.

The two men discussed European security and Russia's continued objections to plans for Nato enlargement. According to Mr Yastrzhembsky, the talks were friendly and Mr Yeltsin was satisfied with their outcome, although it was clear that there were no breakthroughs on the Nato issue. He said M Chirac had assured Mr Yeltsin that France was aware of Russia's concerns.

No journalist was allowed access to the Novo-Ogaryova residence and Mr Yeltsin, who was 66 on Saturday, made no public appearance afterwards. M Chirac held a brief press conference at the airport before flying back to Paris, at which he said he had been impressed by the speed of Mr Yeltsin's recovery.

"I found him, as always, extraordinarily well informed about all the problems of the world which we discussed and very tough in the defence of Russia's interests, which is entirely legitimate." M Chirac said.

Similar statements were made last month by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who saw Mr Yeltsin just before his latest bout of illness. But television footage released after those talks did little to support Herr Kohl's assurances. Mr Yeltsin appeared frail and unsteady with a vacant expression.

> ‘Yeltsin has said that his job was to think first of all. Now he has more time to think, to weigh things’

Since his discharge from hospital on January 20, Mr Yeltsin has made three trips to the Kremlin. Television pictures on these occasions showed him looking better and livelier but still weak. The announcement last week that he had cancelled plans to visit The Hague, because his doctors had advised him against flying, led to renewed speculation that he was still seriously ill.

His wife, Naina, said in a weekend television interview that Mr Yeltsin works many hours a day in his country home. "He starts his work really early, at 4am or 5am," she told ORT television. "He works many hours during the day."

She said the President's work should not be measured by the number of his working hours and official meetings. "He has said that his job was to think first of all," she said. "Now he has more time to think, to weigh things."

However, Russian newspapers are speculating on the post-Yeltsin era, while even loyal officials are making preparations for dealing with a successor. A Moscow daily last week compared Mr Yeltsin with a suitcase without a handle: "You don't really want to throw it away, but it is terribly difficult to carry."

President Yeltsin greets President Chirac at his residence near Moscow yesterday

Milosevic son builds himself a bunker

FROM TOM WALKER
IN POZAREVAC

LABOURERS building a new house for Marko Milosevic, the Ferrari-driving son of the Serbian President, say it contains an underground bunker that could provide protection should the country's crisis deepen.

The house is being built behind high security fences in the Milosevics' home town of Pozarevac, 50 miles southeast of Belgrade. The President and his wife spend little time there now, and the town has become virtually a fiefdom for Marko, 22, and his high-octane antics.

Work on the young Milosevic's sumptuous and impregnable home was put back by six months recently after a flaw was found in some marble slabs. "If there is the slightest mark on any surface, the whole thing has to be replaced," said a workman.

Sitting beneath a framed photograph of the President, the workman spoke in awe of the wonders to be found in Marko's marble basement. A boat-shaped swimming pool has been built, with heating fitted into the walls and floors. The bunker's peculiarity is that it has no entrance — this will be made by Marko's inner circle only when building has finished.

"I tried to find where the wall was thin with a hammer," the worker said, "but I was shouted at by the foreman." He said groups of labourers were changed every month; nobody will work there from start to finish.

The building, off Nemanjina Street near the town centre, is in stark contrast to the drab concrete utilitarianism all around. What little work there is comes from the Bambi biscuit factory, which produces one of Serbia's favourite brands, "Plasma Keks". Despite the abject poverty, however, most people are supporters of President Milosevic and the local opposition office has smashed windows.

Marko so far has had an undistinguished career: he failed to get through college and was rejected by the army. He owns an open-air discotheque, Madonna, outside Pozarevac and races cars with little skill — he has crashed more than a dozen. Witnesses say he drives his yellow Ferrari around town at breakneck speed and always carries a pistol.

Kosovo Albanians killed by police

BY TOM WALKER

ETHNIC Albanians campaigning for a separate state in Kosovo, southern Serbia, have denounced President Milosevic's latest police clampdown on the area.

Three Albanians were shot dead in Vucitrn, near the regional capital, Pristina, on Saturday. A statement from the Serbian Interior Ministry said they had fired on policemen, three of whom were injured in the incident. The ministry identified two of the men as Zahir Pajaziti, a leader of the Liberation Army of Kosovo, and his driver. The third is unknown.

The Liberation Army of Kosovo has been blamed for several recent attacks on Serb targets, the most serious of which was a bomb that injured the rector of Pristina University, from which Albanians are excluded.

"They always blame the so-called Liberation Army of Kosovo, but we never see proof," said Fehmi Agani, vice-president of the Democratic League of Kosovo. "So far as I am concerned, this movement does not exist."

The League has appealed to foreign governments to persuade the Serb authorities to halt "a campaign of terror". Dozens of arrests have been made in the past week in a region where Albanians outnumber Serbs by nine to one.

In Belgrade on Saturday night, Zoran Djindjic, an opposition leader, gave a crowd of 25,000 demonstrators the first news that the Government may be on the verge of making a proposal to end the protests of recent weeks. "We are expecting certain offers to be made, perhaps on Monday," he said.

Djindjic: first hint of peace proposals

Lights go out as Turks campaign for justice

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKISH protesters sat in the dark without television at the weekend during a protest over claims that state security officials ran a network of assassins who ran drugs and laundered money.

MPs, businesses and private television stations joined in the campaign — "A minute of darkness for a lifetime of illumination". Citizens are being urged to switch off their lights at nine o'clock every evening for the next month to demand justice.

The protest arose from revelations last November after a car crash in which a wanted killer, a police chief and a beauty queen died. Sedat Bucak, an ethnic Kurdish MP who runs a state-funded militia enlisted to fight Kurdish separatists, survived.

Since then, Turkish newspapers have been unearthing revelations concerning underground figures, casino owners and senior policemen who may even be linked to British drug suppliers.

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Gibraltar leader calls Spain's plan 'laughable'

From Tunku Varadarajan in Gibraltar

PETER CARUANA, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, has vowed that his administration will not cede "even the tiniest fraction" of the colony's sovereignty to Madrid, dismissing as "absurd and laughable" the latest proposals for Anglo-Spanish co-sovereignty made recently by Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Caruana accused the Spanish Government of treating Gibraltarians with "undisguised contempt". He said: "We are still interested in a better relationship, but all the Spaniards have done is to kick us in the teeth."

Mr Caruana, whose Gibraltar Social Democrats were elected last May on a mandate to build bridges, confessed to "swaying between despair and anger" in his dealings with Madrid. "They have squandered a marvellous opportunity," he said. "For the first time, they have had a Government in Gibraltar which is conciliatory, which is itching for a constructive dialogue. We have always said that we would do anything, without prejudicing our British sovereignty, to try to persuade Spanish politicians to take a different view of Gibraltar. We are not asking *them* to renounce their sovereignty claims but only to put them to one side and talk. Sadly they don't seem to have the imagination."

Mr Caruana reiterated that Gibraltar was "as resolutely British as it has ever been". "We do not ever want to snap our links of dependency. All we want to do is to modernise our constitution, eliminating certain colonial trappings."

When pressed for examples, he suggested that the Governor should no longer enjoy reserve powers to disallow Gibraltar legislation, and that the colony's civil service should be more answerable to its elected representatives.

Mr Caruana was also determined to emphasise that Gibraltar was "no longer the smugglers' cove portrayed by the Spanish media".

Elected on a wave of outrage against the brazen *contrabandistas* who flourished under Joe Bossano, his predecessor, Mr Caruana has made it his main priority to return to Gibraltar its "previously spotless image as a safe, law-abiding place".

Mr Caruana was, nonetheless, scathing of "Madrid propaganda, which harps on about smugglers and drugs without taking a blind bit of notice of the truth".

He said: "The Spanish politicians and press are in the habit of fabricating stories about Gibraltar. There are hardly any fast launches left, yet they still speak of this place as if it were crawling with pirates. It makes us very angry, especially as our police co-operate on a daily basis with the Spanish coast guard."

Mr Caruana declares that "a lot of arrant nonsense" is also talked in Spain about the Rock as a haven for money-laundering. "People in the Spanish Foreign Ministry say that Gibraltar 'must be a money-laundering centre because it has 30,000 registered companies'. But that number is something which Gibraltar has in common with other financial centres."

In a clumsy bid to deflect attention from Mr Caruana's visit to Brussels last week, Señor Matutes leaked details of a "co-sovereignty" proposal to the Spanish press, causing attention to focus on Gibraltar while the Chief Minister was in Brussels.

Mr Caruana believes the Spanish move backfired. He said: "Malcolm Rifkind [the Foreign Secretary] was forced to reject the proposals publicly, and even John Major had to stand up in Parliament and reaffirm the British Government's commitment to Gibraltar's people."

Leading article, page 21

Mussolini in October 1940, soon after Italy entered the Second World War, and Clara Petacci, his mistress

Il Duce's erotic pillow talk revealed

From Richard Owen in Rome

BENITO MUSSOLINI, Italy's Fascist dictator, who liked to portray himself as an iron-willed man of destiny, has been revealed as having spent much of his time on the telephone whispering passionate and erotic words to Clara Petacci, his young mistress.

Arrigo Petacco said yesterday that he had discovered revealing transcripts of Il Duce's telephone conversations while researching his forthcoming book, *Mussolini's Secret Archive*. Rachele, Mussolini's long-suffering wife, had to tolerate many infidelities, but Clara was a central figure in Mussolini's life from 1932 until they died.

Clara was 30 years his junior and, although enchanted by her, he was also capable of great cruelty, to the point where their pillow talk became part of the government of Fascist Italy. When he was shot by Communist partisans in April 1945, as the last remnants of his Fascist regime crumbled, she was at his side, and they were subsequently hanged together by the heels in a Milan square.

The first love letters from Clara to Mussolini found in the archive are dated April 1926, when she was just 14. She called him "a divine being" and sent him poems. She married Riccardo Federici, a seaplane pilot, but Mussolini sent him into exile in Japan as the gossip about their affair spread in the 1930s.

But the telephone transcripts show a side of Mussolini that even rumour-mongers could only guess at. "The perfume of your kisses sends me into a daze," he said in one late-night conversation in December 1937. At the time he was preparing to convert his informal alliance with Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan into the pre-war Axis.

"My love, swear that you are mine and mine alone," Clara said in one call. He replied: "Clara, when I look into your eyes I look into the depths of your soul. The world disappears, I forget everyone and everything."

Signor Petacco said his researches showed "history through the keyhole". He had access to the private archives in which Il Duce kept information about his political rivals and opponents, including telephone taps. But a branch of the Italian secret service, the Servizio Speciale Riservato, was also keeping tabs on the dictator — at his own request.

Signor Pettaco said the conversations were full of "sighs and kisses" interspersed with political information. One conversation at midnight on June 9, 1940, when Italy was about to enter the Second World War, records Clara as asking Mussolini why he was so tense.

"Perhaps you don't love me any more," she said plaintively. Il Duce replied: "How can you say such stupid things? In a few hours the fate of Italy will be decided. One word alone could mean either glory or an ignominious end." He then hung up, but soon phoned back to apologise.

"There is nothing to forgive, my love", Clara replied. "It is for you to forgive me my great love for you."

"An immense and infinite love," Il Duce replied tenderly.

Juppé should be welcomed with a few euro truths

THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

British ministers like to boast of how well they get on nowadays with their French opposite numbers. So when Alain Juppé rolls up at No 10 Downing Street this morning, John Major ought to be frank with him. Instead of giving the French Prime Minister the regulation-issue platitudes, this is what he should say:

"Good of you to drop in, Alain, and don't bother to apologise for using us as a photo op. When one's at rock bottom in the opinion polls, I know every handshake on foreign soil is a bonus. Since this may be the last time we meet here, let me be straight with you.

"You can read the signals. Britain isn't going into the first wave of a European monetary union. Blair will have an EU honeymoon, of course, but if anyone thinks that big business or Gordon Brown is going to bounce him into a single currency, he needs his head examined. You've met Blair: he's not a fool, and he's not going to make the first Labour government for 18 years a hostage to a single currency referendum which he might lose and destroy himself.

"That being the case, the next issue between France and Britain is whether the EU's single-market rules will work when one group of states start using the euro. According to some of your ministers and businessmen, we can't honourably stay inside the single market while we're outside monetary union. At a Franco-British conference in Versailles last weekend, somebody said this would be like playing poker with Monopoly money.

"First, the EU treaty allows us to have our cake and eat it. If you try cutting us out of the market you will have a long, acrimonious and messy fight. Can I just remind you that DIHT, the German businessmen's organisation, said last week that a favourable exchange-rate difference might be very good for German investors in Britain? And what is all this about devaluations hurting French exports anyway? Get real: your export performance is stunning. I saw some Dresdner Kleinwort Benson figures which show that your exports to us, Spain and Italy have been growing faster than those to the Belgian, Dutch and German hard-currency markets.

"The euro is corroding faith in politics. Your smile suggests that British ministers 25 per cent behind in the polls at home who make speeches to 'the people' of the continent look a little silly. Quite honestly, Malcolm Rifkind in a penguin suit isn't exactly my idea of an ordinary bloke either.

"Germany's jobless rate for the under-25s is almost the same as its overall rate: just over 9 per cent. You have a national rate of 12.7, but an under-25 rate of 29 per cent. You're creating a whole generation beyond the Paris ring road for whom "Maastricht" equals the dole. Central bankers issue warning after warning that neither gentle growth nor the euro can solve the unemployment crisis.

"Jacques Chirac has been discussing defence with Helmut Kohl, I see. Don't forget that events on the edge of our continent may require Europe's armies to work closely together. That won't be possible if you're locked into a Rhineland political union to which Britain doesn't belong.

"You've built a trap for yourselves by telling the French electorate that a single currency shrinks German power, and you've convinced yourselves that backing out is more dangerous than carrying on. But if you do see a way out, we really would be happy to help.

"Let's have some lunch, shall we?"

George Brock

Papandreou widow 'hoarding political dirt'

From John Carr
in Athens

GREECE'S most talked-about widow, Dimitra Liani-Papandreou, has drawn a fresh round of fire from the Government, which fears she could be in possession of embarrassing state secrets.

An official spokesman called Mrs Liani-Papandreou, better known as Mimi, a "political zombie" after a magazine published a document purporting to show that Greece buckled under to American pressure during a dispute with Turkey over a barren Aegean island a year ago. The document is believed to belong to the archive of Mimi's late husband, the former Prime Minister and Socialist Party founder, Andreas Papandreou, who bequeathed it to her.

The possibility that Mimi, who has been shunned by the political establishment since her husband's death, has documentary ammunition against the present Prime Minister, Costas Simitis, has rattled the Government.

Mimi, 41, has almost certainly not given up hopes of a political comeback, despite trying unsuccessfully to be a Greek version of Eva Perón. She has indicated that she could easily trawl the Papandreou archive for things to throw at the Government.

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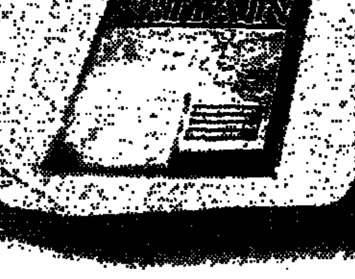

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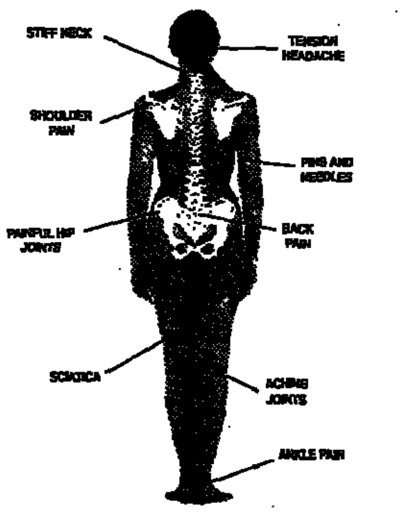

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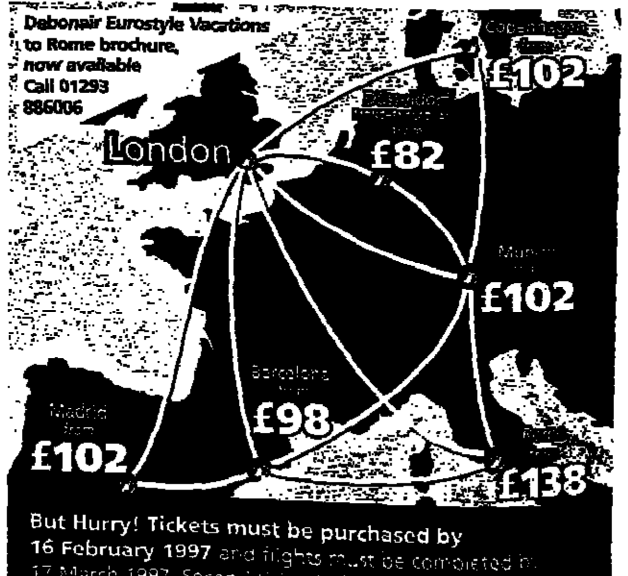

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An accelerator's odd results tantalise physicists

Puzzling particles

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

PHYSICISTS love the Standard Model, the theory that explains matter in terms of particles called quarks and gluons. But, perversely, they would also love to find a flaw in it. Science advances by making and breaking theories, so the longevity and resilience of the Standard Model is a kind of reproof. It implies that either the search for understanding is over — in which case physics is dying — or that physicists have not tried hard enough to find disproofs.

So far, the Standard Model (invariably dignified with capital letters) has provided a tidy explanation for everything observed in experiments at particle accelerators. Or nearly everything: some odd observations at the European Centre for Particle Physics (CERN) have got theorists scratching their heads.

The puzzle began last year, says Professor Peter Dornan of Imperial College, when streams of electrons and positrons were being collided at energies of 130-135 billion electron volts. The team responsible, to which he belongs, were using a detector called ALEPH to scan the debris from the collisions, looking in particular for signs of decaying massive particles. They began to find unusual patterns that don't fit the Standard Model.

In each case, the detector picked up four separate jets of mesons and similar particles emerging from the collision — the signature of a decaying massive particle created for an instant by the impact. The Standard Model predicts that certain kinds of particles would be produced, but some of the four-jet events recorded by ALEPH didn't fit this pattern.

The temptation was to dismiss these observations as a fluke which would disappear when more data was gathered. This was reinforced by the fact that three other detectors at CERN failed to see any peculiar events. But when the Large Electron-Positron collider (LEP) restarted late last year, at a higher energy, the events started popping up again. "The signal was still there," he said. "It's tantalising."

What could be the explanation? There are two prizes lying just out of reach of the current accelerators: the Higgs Boson, a particle that is believed to be the basis of mass, and supersymmetry, a hypothetical state of nature in which known particles have massive partners yet to be discovered. Supersymmetry is seen by theorists as a possible successor to the Standard Model. Unfortunately, the new observations are not clear evidence for either the Higgs Boson or supersymmetry. The ALEPH team has given its raw data to the teams responsible for the other detectors running on LEP and they are chewing it over. By the end of this month the LEP committee will produce a report indicating what, if anything, is going on. The next chance to run further experiments comes in June, when LEP restarts at even higher energies. The hope is to run it for a substantial period, perhaps a year, and gather five to ten times as much data. "That should enable us either to announce a discovery, or lay the whole thing to rest," says Professor Dornan.

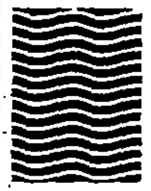
How the honeybee operates by night

HONEYBEES have eyes comprising many small lenses which operate well by day but less efficiently at night. The aperture of each lens is too small to admit enough light to see well in dim conditions. Yet many species fly by night.

It is easy to understand *why* they do this, says Dr Eric Warrant, of the University of Lund, in Sweden. It is cooler at night, which makes flying easier as bees need to shed the heat produced by the flight muscles. There is less competition, as most flower visitors fly by day. There is also less chance of encountering predators, and there may be advantages in exploiting nectar around the clock.

Harder to understand, however, is *how* they do it. With two German colleagues, Dr Warrant reports in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* how the bees make the most of the available light. They add up the photons entering neighbouring lenses, effectively increasing the aperture; and they also add up photons arriving over a longer period of time — equivalent to increasing the exposure time in a camera. This doesn't allow them to see as well as truly nocturnal insects in moonlight, but well enough.

Power plants steam up over geysers



GEYSERS seem to offer the ultimate free lunch — a source of steam or hot water that can be used to generate electricity without needing to burn coal, oil or gas. But power companies that have built geothermal plants to exploit the steam have sometimes been disappointed. At The Geysers, a geothermal field near Santa Rosa in California, steam production has dropped alarmingly fast — 10 per cent a year since the mid-1980s. Newly built plants have had to be demolished.

Now Drs Bruce Julian, of the US Geological Survey, and Gillian Foulger, of Durham University, have developed a way of monitoring steam reservoirs. They measure the variations in speed of two types of wave produced by earthquakes, the so-called P-waves and S-waves.

Using a network of 22 seismograph stations, they found that as the reservoir at The Geysers shrank, the N-waves tended to slow down. In *Geophysical Research Letters*, they suggest that the technique can be used to monitor the emptying of a reservoir. Of equal interest to power companies, it might also be used to find new reservoirs.

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What happens when the Sun starts to boil

Solar activity is heading for a climax — to devastating effect. Report by **Anjana Ahuja**

Earlier this month, millions of television viewers in America saw pictures disappear from their screens. It is suspected that Telstar 401, an AT&T broadcasting satellite, was under siege from one of nature's most violent outbursts — a solar storm. Hours later, Telstar 401 was declared officially dead.

This could be a taste of things to come. The Sun, whose outbursts wax and wane over an 11-year cycle, is heading for a climax at the turn of the century. During this peak, called a solar maximum, the surface of the star will erupt unpredictably, sending bursts of fire and energy racing into space. For the owners of thousands of satellites cruising the peaceful emptiness of space, the implications are frightening. Satellites involved in communications, navigation, weather prediction and even surveillance, could be in jeopardy.

What is more, the insurers of Telstar 401 have insisted they will not pay up if the satellite is confirmed to have fallen victim to a solar storm — there is no protection, they say, against "acts of God". There is no absolute proof that an ejection from the Sun was responsible — just a few hours earlier, too early to make a connection with the same storm, the GOES 8 satellite malfunctioned.

Until recently, the rhythmic rise and decline in the Sun's activity was of interest only to solar scientists. The most obvious markers of the 11-year cycle are sunspots, dark blemishes whose appearance was first recorded by astronomers in Ancient China. These dark spots appear with greater frequency in the five or so years leading up to a solar maximum. At the maximum, there can be several hundred spots.

Aside from these features, the Sun can give the appearance of being a dormant entity. However, it has occasionally hinted at its hidden power. Outpourings from the Sun have been known temporarily to paralyse power networks — during the last solar maximum in 1989 the whole of Quebec suffered a power blackout. These have happened because explosions on the Sun have spread into space and gone on to buffet the Earth's magnetic field.

Satellites are now under threat from inclement "space weather". "People are beginning to talk about this issue," says Professor Clive Dyer, who heads the Spacecraft Environment and Protection department at the Defence Evaluation Research Agency (DERA). "The main problem at solar maximum is the number of energetic charged particles speeding from the Sun, which can reach satellites in minutes. With modern microelectronics, just one ill-placed particle can trigger a catastrophic current."

At other times, the electrons which stream steadily out into space can build up on the surfaces of satellites. When this build-up reaches a certain threshold, which can be millions of electronvolts, it discharges in a massive burst. "Electrostatic discharge can be enough to flip a switch, or, in extreme cases, burn out a component," Professor Dyer says. Indeed, in April last year, Dr Gordon Wrenn, also at DERA, concluded that many satellites are at risk from such discharges while in orbit.

Professor Dyer believes that things have not been helped by the extreme competitiveness between spacecraft manufacturers. He says: "Because of the decline of the defence industry, people are no longer using specially fabricated components which can withstand harsh environments. Instead, they are using smaller, mass-marketed components. These perform very well but there is a trade-off, which is higher vulnerability."

Dr Eamonn Daly, who leads the Spacecraft Environment section at the European Space Agency, points out that electronic systems have always been known to be sensitive to radiation, and that as equipment becomes more sophisticated, it will also become more vulnerable. He and his team are researching ways of making future satellites more hardy.

Dr Daly says: "We already have procedures for testing for radiation, but we could try to make our systems and components more radiation-proof.

"We can also make our onboard computers cleverer. Some satellites can recognise single-particle events, and have the software to correct for them. As for electrostatic charging, we could reduce this with more careful design and better layout of equipment."

'Just one ill-placed particle can be the cause of a problem'

Dr Daly advises greater vigilance over satellites now in operation. If operators know that the Sun is going through a turbulent period, they can downgrade operations or, in exceptional cases, shut them down completely.

However, Dr Daly points out that building the perfect satellite — cheap, reliable and sensitive — is an impossibility. "We are always going to have these problems. If we want to fly sensitive equipment to measure the flux from distant galaxies, we have to accept that other particles could disrupt operation. The solution is, perhaps, to use different orbits. But that means launching differently, and launches are very expensive. There will always be a trade-off."

One alternative to building more durable spacecraft is to forecast when outbursts might occur and predict their path. Satellites could then be nudged out of the way. This is what the US Army is doing. Its scientists were spurred into action by memories of the last solar maximum, during which several radio and communications systems were temporarily knocked out by space storms. Intelligence satellites had to reduce the speed at which they transmitted data. Navigation signals from the global positioning satellites system also waned.

As a result, the military has paid Nasa $17 million (£11.3 million) to build a solar X-ray imager to be flown aboard a weather satellite in 1999. This will keep an eye on solar activity, and give warning of approaching radiation bursts.

In a similar attempt to monitor space weather, Nasa is building Ace, the Advanced Composition Explorer. Ace promises to give a "virtually failsafe one-hour advanced warning of severe geomagnetic storms". It is aimed at protecting Earth-based systems such as power grids. Sensitive equipment can then be shielded or turned off.

These are desperate measures. The real solution is to be able to predict storms days, rather than minutes or hours, in advance. With solar maximum approaching fast, and the Telstar incident casting a menacing shadow, scientists know all too well that the countdown has begun.

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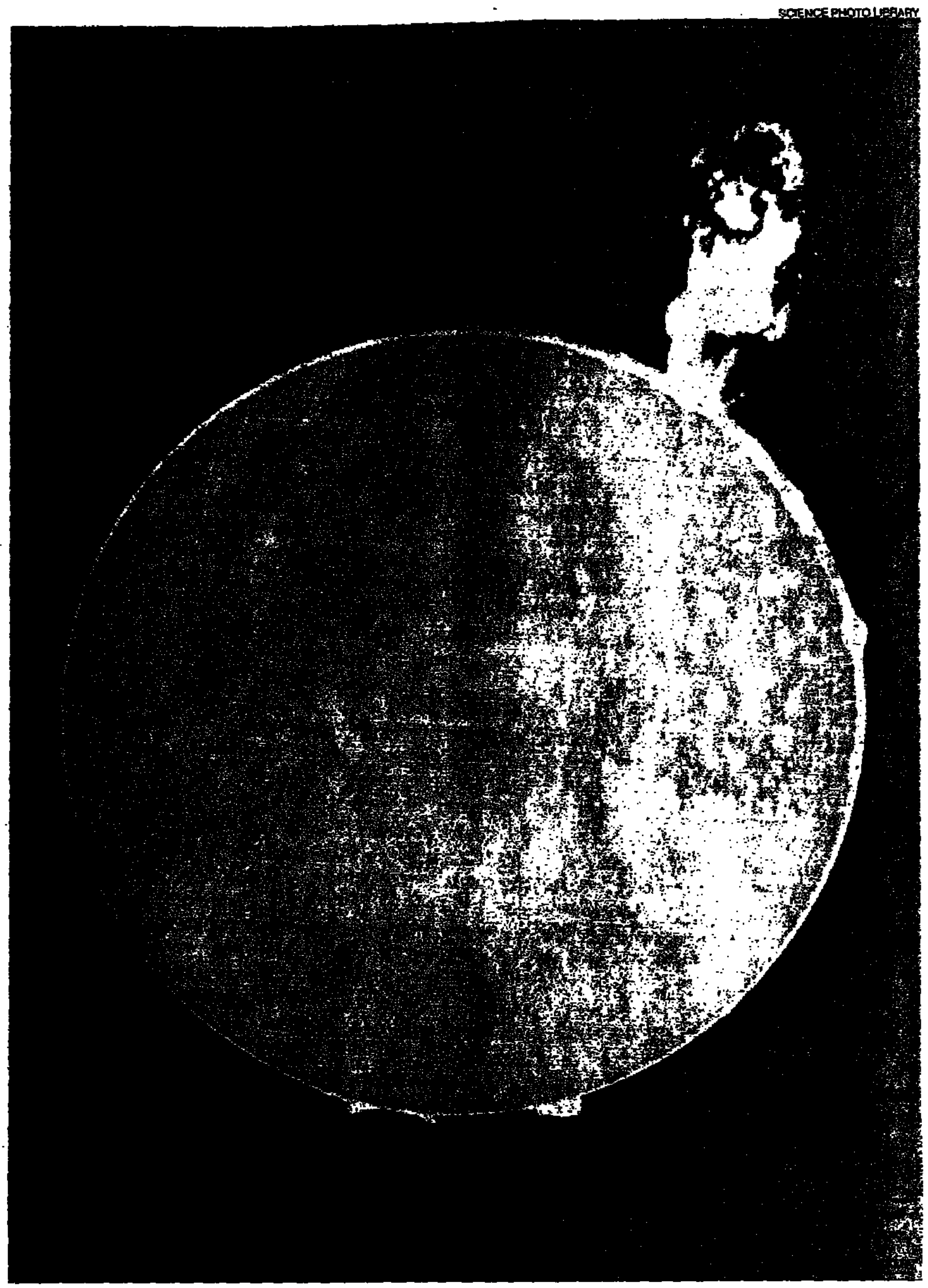
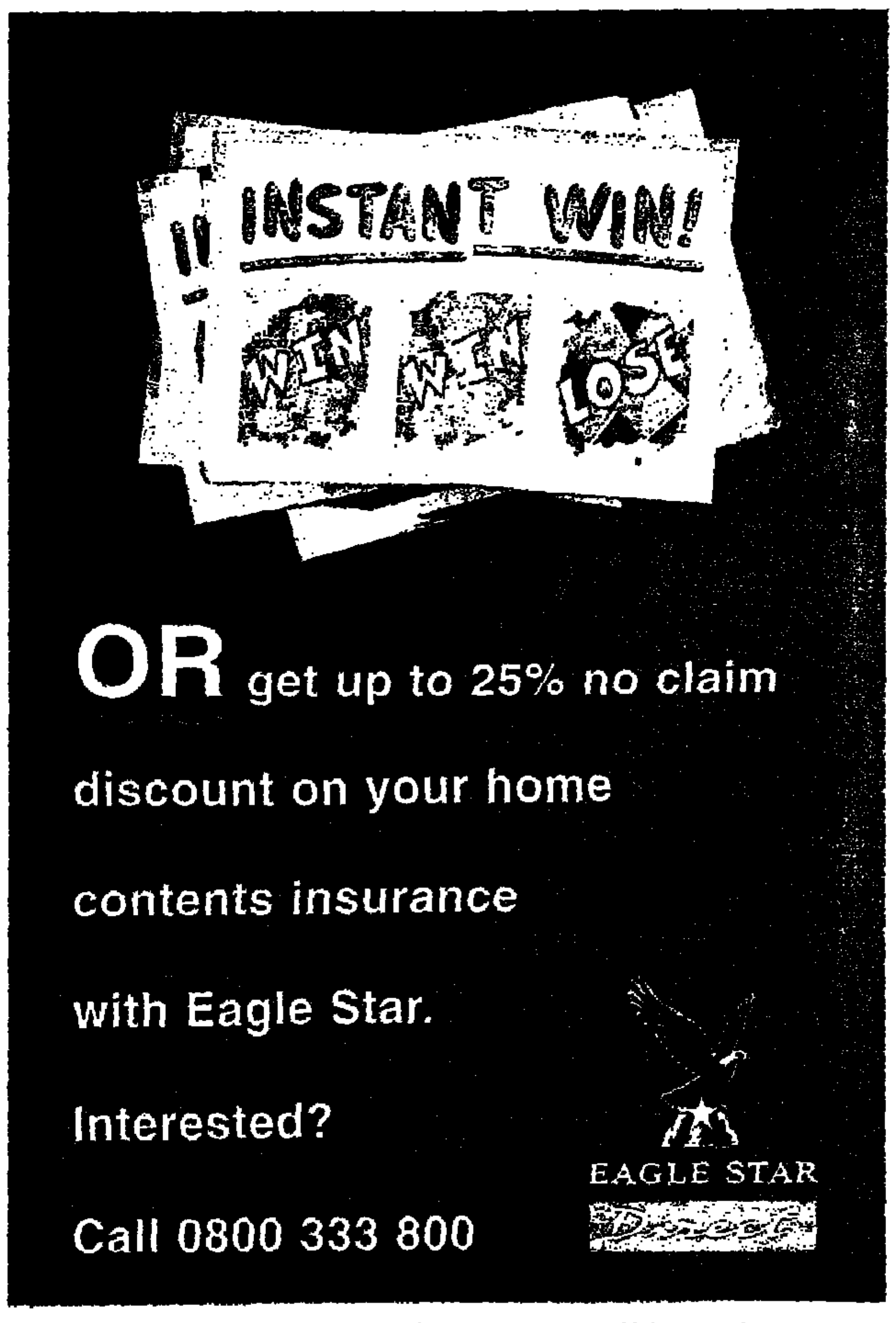


Solar storms such as this are likely to play havoc with satellites and with delicate electronic equipment on Earth



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The Chosen Ones

In the privileged world of royal godchildren, Diana, Princess of Wales, is the trophy godmother. Who are these children and how are they chosen? Jason Cowley reports

TIM GRAHAM

Alexandra Knatchbull, daughter of Lord and Lady Romsey, is one of the godchildren who provide an insight into the monarchy

When a radiant Jemima Khan left the Portland Hospital clasping the little bundle whom we now know as Sulaiman Isa Khan, it is hardly surprising that the rumour swiftly spread that his godmother was to be Diana, Princess of Wales. True, Sulaiman and his parents are Muslim, a faith that explicitly prohibits godparents, while the Princess's divorce has, presumably, left unaltered her allegiance to the Church of England. But in every other respect, she was the perfect trophy godmother for such a high-profile infant, with whose mother she had been photographed on her much-publicised visit to Pakistan, tripping into a Lahore restaurant modestly but fetchingly clad in glittering, rose-pink *shalwar kameez*. Her office, however, moved swifly to quash the speculation, announcing: "The Princess has 17 godchildren, so that arena is filled."

The role of godparent is a fascinating blend of the public and private. To agree to stand godparent to a child is, with the exception of marriage, perhaps the most emphatic and self-revealing formal expression of intimacy and affection that it is possible to make. In doing so, one takes on not merely the moral and social responsibility for the child, but at the same time, forges a peculiarly close-knit — and indissoluble — alliance with its parents.

In years to come, historians will regard the Royal Family's list of godchildren with fascination. For the bald list of names constitutes a remarkable portrait of the machinery of monarchy — the ties of blood and affection and the complex web of alliances that constitutes that most secret of societies, the English court.

Among the senior members of the Royal Family, the Queen has 30 godchildren, the Prince of Wales 27, the Princess Royal ten, Prince Andrew eight, and Prince Edward seven. The Palace declines to supply information on the subject of these children, regarding their identity as "private" — although the Anglican faith of which the Queen is, and the Prince of Wales will eventually become, Defender is quite clear about the public nature of the commitment that a godparent makes at baptism.

To scan through the list of names — the Brabournes and Hickses and Knatchbulls, with their complicated interconnections of kindred and affinity — is to take a fascinating cross-section of British grandees — the sort who flee the vulgar glare of publicity and the gossip columns as vampires eschew garlic. Among the children who can boast the signal — if possibly somewhat terrifying — honour of Her Majesty as godmother are James, 35-year-old son of her lady-in-waiting, Lady Susan Hussey, and her husband Marmaduke, the former Director-General of the BBC; Edwina Hicks, 35-year-old daughter of David and Lady Pamela Hicks; and the 40-year-old Lord Porchester, heir to the Earl of Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager.

The 11th Duke of Northumberland, who died of kidney failure in 1995, aged only 42, was also a godson of the Queen. Harry Percy, a descendant of Harry Hotspur who figured largely in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, had led a somewhat eccentric life, hanging out with the likes of Valerie Campbell (mother of Naomi) and Barbara Carrera, a former Bond girl.

The list of Prince Charles's godchildren closely resembles his mother's in its aristocratic conservatism. Among a familiar sprinkling of the descendants of his adored mentor, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, are the twins Timothy and Nicholas Knatchbull (Nicholas died, aged 14, in the IRA explosion that also killed his grandfather, Lord Mountbatten) and the former model, India Hicks. Also on the list are Eliza, daughter by his second wife, and therefore half-sister to the Duchess of York, and Charles and Tom, the sons of his close friends Lady Tryon and Camilla Parker Bowles. He is also godfather to his sister's son, Peter Phillips. The most controversial name on the list (and one could hardly have predicated it when she was an infant) is Marina Mowatt, erring daughter of Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra, whose insouciant attitude to pregnancy outside wedlock smacked more of the louche House of Stuart than the highly respectable Mountbatten-Windsors, and who made history of a kind, by being the first member of the Royal Family voluntarily to appear in a tabloid newspaper.

The Queen holds David and Lady Pamela Hicks's child

> In years to come, historians will regard the list with fascination

To compare these lists of blue blood, old money, faithful courtiers and employees with the roster of Diana, Princess of Wales's, 17 godchildren is a fascinating exercise. For there, bassinet to bassinet with the children of European royalty (Prince Philippos, son of King Constantine of the Hellenes), British aristocracy (Lady Mary Wellesley, daugher of the Marquess of Douro), and the obligatory Mountbattens (Alexandra Knatchbull, daughter of Lord and Lady Romsey) are the children of people with such middle-class occupations as the media (Sir David Frost and Dominic Lawson), or finance (Audley Twiston-Davies), and the offspring of old friends from childhood such as Isabel Cazalet, and the Princess's early days in London, such as Carolyn Bartholomew.

It is possible to perceive in one or two of the names on the list the faintest whiff of gesture godparenting. In 1988, at a time when she was in growing conflict with Buckingham Palace, the Princess was apparently indignant at what she perceived as the snubs administered by the palace to the Earl of St Andrews and his wife, Sylvana Tomaselli, a Canadian divorcée. When she stood godmother to their son, Lord Edward Downpatrick, he was the first royal child in 150 years not to be permitted use of the royal christening robe, first worn by Edward VII.

> 'Other children can get jealous about such things'

In 1989, with a subtly timed visit to her newborn godson Jack, the son of Carolyn Bartholomew, the Princess conveyed her support for her friend and, by association, her broad agreement with the statements made in Andrew Morton's book, *Diana: Her True Story*, for which Carolyn had been one of the most valuable sources.

Her most recent godchild, Domenica, the daughter of the Hon Rosa Monckton, managing director of the jewellers Tiffany's, and Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, suffers from Down's syndrome — a condition that her father has debated passionately and at length in the press. Whether conscious or not, the Princess's decision to associate herself with the condition by her links with Domenica can only help to raise its profile.

The cross-section of society represented by the Princess's godchildren is startlingly at variance with the world of her ex-husband and his family. With its strong infusion of the media-friendly, the meritocratic and the solidly middle-class, it represents, ironically enough, precisely the fresher, more modern approach to the formation of the monarchy and the court that the Palace and its advisers recently have been struggling so hard to instigate.

Impatient with formality and protocol, the Princess approaches the role of godmother in remarkably unprincess-like fashion — a legacy, perhaps, of the fact that, with the Duchess of York, she is the only member of the immediate Royal Family to have experienced, albeit briefly, a relatively "ordinary" life — sharing a flat in west London and working in a Pimlico nursery.

"She always sends cards and presents at birthdays and Christmas," says Isabel Cazalet, mother of the Princess's goddaughter, Clare. "We asked her because she is very good with children and I've been close to her family for many years. She would have been the perfect person to have, even if she hadn't been who she was. Her sisters [Jane and Sarah] are godmothers to my other two children."

As far as parents are concerned, the Princess undoubtedly represents the ultimate in trophy godmothers, but her warmth and natural affinity with young people are likely to make her a hit with the children, too. Her highly visible attempts at Alton Towers and elsewhere to ensure that her sons learn how to be ordinary boys as well as little princes argue a godmother with a highly developed sense of duty to provide her godchildren not just with moral guidance, but also with amusement — and, as they grow towards adulthood, a judicious dose of treats regarded as unsuitable by parents — trips to the couture show for the girls, perhaps, and tête-a-tête dinners with the boys, in the true tradition of the elegantly racy godmother.

The children may not regard their celebrity godmother in quite the starry-eyed manner of their parents: "[Clare's] quite embarrassed about it, I think," says Isabel Cazalet. "You know how it is with children. They prefer to remain anonymous, especially as other children can get jealous about such things." But the fact remains that the Princess's band of 17 godchildren represents a tiny, golden cross-section of the most highly privileged youngsters in Britain. The offspring of the great, the good, the powerful and the influential — of an elite who still retain some claims to be the unelected rulers of the United Kingdom, they can expect in their turn to grow up to become among the most influential representatives of the next generation.

Scanning the list, it is impossible not to wonder what the future may hold for them. Perhaps, in 20 years' time, one of them may even find herself seated, as her godmother never will, upon the throne.

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William and Carolyn Bartholomew [illegible]

Sir David and Lady Carina Frost [illegible]

[illegible] and Diana, Princess of Wales, holding [illegible] Domenica Lawson, daughter of Dominic Lawson and Rosa Monckton

Pointing children towards the path of God

One godfather died of drink. The other I was delighted to discover for the first time, more than 50 years after the christening, in South Africa. But both had given me generous christening presents and however tenuous the relationship, they remained *my* godfathers.

Sometimes that relationship can be crucial. Adolescents going through a stormy patch and finding both parents difficult — or *being* difficult, perhaps in the midst of a painful divorce — have someone outside the family turmoil to whom they can turn in crisis. There is a relationship there, then and later in life, on which the godchild can draw.

There is, of course, a religious basis to this, as clergy sometimes have to point out to parents seeking baptism for their child. "Padré, is it all right if one of the godparents is Jewish?" I gently have to tell them that to put our good Jewish friends in a position of having to say "I turn to Christ", as the *Alternative Service Book* requires, is to put them in a false position.

The promises a godparent has to make on behalf of the child are stark and uncompromising. In addition to turning to Christ, they have to say "I repent of my sins" and "I renounce evil", as well as putting their trust in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

That may be one reason why people find the wonderful language of the *Book of Common Prayer* easier. It can all be distanced, like a bit of Shakespeare: Dost thou, in the name of this child, renounce the Devil and all his works, the vain, pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

In practice, for a conscientious godparent, this means regular prayer for the godchild. It means a genuine concern for their spiritual growth, as well as their human wellbeing. The difficulties and joys of belief will come up quite naturally in conversation. It might be expressed in a judiciously chosen book. Obviously if a godparent has little faith or commitment themselves, they have little to share or pass on to their godchild.

All this can come to a happy climax in the Confirmation, when the promises made on behalf of the child at the baptism are made by the person themselves. But it would be a strange godparent who ceased to care or pray for their godchild at that point.

At the beginning of the Service of Baptism for Children, the duties of godparents are spelt out. Children need help so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trusting God, and come to Confirmation.

Parents and godparents, the children whom you have brought for baptism depend chiefly on you for the help and encouragement they need. Are you willing to give it to them by your prayers, by your example, and by your teaching?

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD
THE RIGHT REVEREND
RICHARD HARRIES

Changing role through the ages

GODPARENTS have been a central part of the British family and social life for nearly 1,400 years and, surprisingly in a secular age, they remain an important part of many lives.

Godparents may do little more than turn up for the christening, make the necessary promises, give the occasional present and act *in loco parentis* should their charge be orphaned. But many take an active role in the child's religious upbringing, sending cards and books, and praying on their behalf. Others might not be concerned with religion, but will develop a close relationship with the child.

The former Bishop of Leicester, Richard Rutt, pointed out in the only church report on the subject, that the influence of godparents is important "in the life of the body of Christ". But for the post-Christian majority today, the social connection is what matters more.

Godparents have existed in some form since the earliest baptisms in the River Jordan, when their role was to present the candidates for baptism. Tertullian, in the 2nd century, uses the Latin word *sponsor*, referring to the obligation to ensure that baptismal vows are fulfilled, and Justin Martyr mentioned the liturgical role of the baptismal sponsor.

The role of *sponsors* (godparents are often still referred to as sponsors in the church, in particular with adult baptisms), increased in importance after the age of martyrdom ended and infant baptisms increased in the 5th century. The words *patrinus* and *matrina* for godfather and godmother were in regular use by the 7th century. Besides presenting the candidate, they were also required to answer questions on their behalf.

The confusion between spiritual and physical relationships led to bizarre occurrences. In Saxon England laws existed demanding reparation to godparents as well as natural parents if a man was murdered. In one notorious case in the Middle Ages, church lawyers challenged a 20-year marriage on the ground that the wife was related spiritually to the husband through a godparent.

The earliest evidence of the influence of social considerations comes from a church council at Lille in 1288, when it was forbidden to give any presents except a christening robe, because their cost had become so prohibitive. But by the mid-Victorian age, some parents would pay to acquire the godparents they wanted.

THE *1662 Book of Common Prayer* required every child brought for baptism to have three godparents, with two of its own sex. Since 1969, children have been permitted one godparent of each sex, and parents may also stand with at least one other godparent. They should not only care for the children, but set an example of godly living.

In the baptism service they must promise to turn to Christ, repent of their sins and renounce evil.

Some still question whether the Church of England has moved on much further from the era when Dickens's Mrs Chick told Mr Dombey: "Godfathers, of course, are important in point of connection and influence." Evidence from the clergy suggests that awareness of the dangers of a wholly secular society is growing. Many who do baptise their children are concerned for their spiritual welfare when choosing godparents.

RUTH GLEDHILL

DIANA'S GODCHILDREN

Lady Edwina Grosvenor: Born November 1981. Parents Duke and Duchess of Westminster. Her father is a cousin of the Prince.
Hon Alexandra Knatchbull: Born December 1982. Parents Lord and Lady Romsey.
Clare Cazalet: Born July 1984. Parents Victor and Isabel Cazalet.
Camilla Straker: Born March 1985. Parents Reuben and the Hon Sophie Straker. Sophie is the daughter of the life peer Lord Kimball.
Prince Philippos: Born April 1986. Parents King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie of the Hellenes. King Constantine is a cousin of the Duke of Edinburgh.
Leonora Lonsdale: Born June 1986. Parents Jamie and Laura Lonsdale. Laura is a lady-in-waiting.
Jakie Warren: Born August 1986. Parents John and Lady Carolyn Warren. Lady Carolyn is the daughter of the Earl of Carnarvon.
Lady Mary Wellesley: Born December 1986. Parents Marquess and Marchioness of Douro. The Marquess is heir to the Duke of Wellington. His wife, Antonia, is the daughter of HRH Prince Frederick von Preussen.
George Frost: Born April 1987. Parents Sir David and Lady Carina Frost. David Frost is a broadcaster and writer. His wife is the daughter of the Duke of Norfolk.
Antonia Twiston-Davies: Born October 1987. Mr Twiston-Davies is director of Foreign & Colonial Management.
Jack Faulkner: Born August 1988. Parents Major Simon and Isabel Faulkner.
Lord Edward Downpatrick: Earl and Countess of St Andrews. Born December 1988. Out-of-favour royals with whom the Princess found a common bond.
Jack Bartholomew: Born July 1989. Parents: William and Carolyn Bartholomew. Carolyn is a former flatmate of Diana. She is married to the brewery heir.
Benjamin Samuel: Born May 1989. Parents the Hon Michael and Julia Samuel. The Hon Michael is the youngest son of Viscount Bearsted. His wife is a member of the Guinness dynasty.
Antonia Harrington: Born August 1991. Parents Mr and Mrs Jonathan Harrington.
Daisy Soames: Born April 1992. Parents the Hon Rupert and Camilla Soames. Rupert Soames is the brother of the Conservative MP Nicholas Soames.
Domenica Lawson: Born June 1995. Parents Dominic Lawson and the Hon Rosa Monckton.

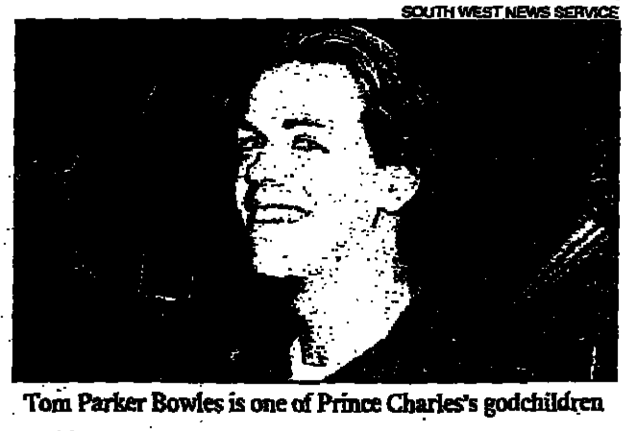
THE QUEEN'S GODCHILDREN

THE Queen has 30 godchildren including Guy Nevill, the Hon Julian Hardinge and Lord O'Hagan. All born in 1945. The roll call includes Elizabeth King, born 1946; Rosemary Elizabeth Elphinstone, born 1947; Edward Hay, born 1949; the Hon Michael Knatchbull, born 1950, a grandson of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. During the 1950s she became godmother to Caroline Longman, born 1951; Elizabeth Colville, born 1952; Victoria Ann Rhodes, born 1953. In 1953, she also became godmother to the Duke of Northumberland, the late Henry Percy. In that decade, she also became godmother to Lady Virginia Fitzroy, born 1954, daughter of the Duke of Grafton; George Porchester, born 1956, son of Lord Porchester, now the Earl of Carnarvon; and the 6th Earl Granville, born 1959. During the 1960s, her godchildren included her nephew Viscount Linley, born 1961; Edwina Hicks, a granddaughter of Lord Mountbatten, born 1961; Katharine Somervell, born 1961, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Somervell; James Hussey, born 1961, the son of Marmaduke and Lady Susan Hussey; and Charles Althorpe, now Earl Spencer, born 1964.

TOMORROW

How to be a virgin in America and survive

SOUTH WEST NEWS SERVICE



Tom Parker Bowles is one of Prince Charles's godchildren

PRINCE CHARLES'S GODCHILDREN

THE Prince of Wales's 27 godchildren include Timothy Knatchbull and his late brother Nicholas, twin sons of Lord and Lady Brabourne; Marina Mowatt, daughter of the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy and Princess Alexandra; India Hicks, daughter of interior designer David Hicks and his wife Lady Pamela Hicks, daughter of Lord Mountbatten; Lord Nicholas Windsor, son of the Duke and Duchess of Kent; James Laing, son of diplomat Stuart Laing and his wife Sibella; Alexander, Earl of Ulster, son of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester; Tom Parker Bowles, son of Andrew and Camilla Parker Bowles; Charles Tryon, eldest son of Lord and Lady Tryon; Edward Tollemache, eldest son of Lord and Lady Tollemache; Peter Phillips, son of Captain Mark Phillips and the Princess Royal; Eliza Ferguson, daughter of the Duchess of York's father, Major Ronald Ferguson, and his wife Susan. Prince Philippos, son of King Constantine II and Queen Anne-Marie of the Hellenes. Most recently, Charles was godfather to Princess Maria-Olympia, daughter of Prince Pavlos and Princess Marie-Chantal of Greece.

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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

The National Gallery reveals the nascent genius of the Young Gainsborough

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ BOOKS

Blake Morrison explores the tragic implications of the Bulger case in *As If*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

■ MUSIC

The dazzling mezzo, Cecilia Bartoli, comes to Manchester's Bridgewater Hall

RECITAL: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ DANCE

Guitarist Paco Peña brings his flamenco troupe for a season at the Peacock Theatre

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

Love at first sight, or is it a moray?

POP

Eels
Garage, N1

The grapevine has been quietly buzzing about them for months, but little is known about Eels. They come from Echo Park, Los Angeles. There are three of them, called only Butch (*drums*), Tommy (bass) and E (guitar and keyboards). They look like losers but can all sing well. Their debut single, a sorrowful but wonderfully loopy song called *Novocaine for the Soul*, is released today, and this was one of their first shows in this country.

"People of London and the United Kingdom, we mean you no harm," E announced reassuringly. A geeky character with a long chin and thick-rimmed spectacles, he looked more like a library assistant than a rock star. He picked up a phone. "I'm kinda busy right now, trying to rock London," he told his imaginary connection before performing *Susan's House* down the line.

Set to a gentle hip hop beat, the song detailed a catalogue of inner city woes — "There's a crazy old woman smashing bottles on the sidewalk where her house burnt down two years ago" — that stirred feelings of both sadness and warmth.

While Britain has turned its back on most standard forms of post-grunge rock, we still have a soft spot for American eccentrics with a winning way with words and tunes. As the three Eels worked their way through a succession of songs and instruments ("Yes, it's a banjo," E announced as he strapped one on to play *Flower*), it became clear that they are very much a part of this lovable oddball tradition, an impression which was not dispelled by a spiky rearrangement of Sophie B. Hawkins's *Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover*.

They tended to meander during some of the very quiet songs, but pulled the show back into focus with a performance of *Novocaine for the Soul* that sounded much harder than the recorded version, and a storming *Rags to Rags*, during which Tommy abandoned his bass in favour of an African drum and set up a rattling percussion dialogue with the mighty Butch.

The massive climax to *Not Ready Yet*, which ended in a dense hail of feedback effects, confirmed the slippery muscle of these engagingly queer fish.

DAVID SINCLAIR

The making of the Grade

MELVYN BRAGG

I first met Michael Grade in his high office surveying London from the South Bank in 1977. He had been asked by John Birt to finalise details — to put the ash on the cigar — of the move I had decided to make from the BBC to LWT. Michael Grade looked very much as he does today — eagerly sitting on the edge of his chair, encouraging, funny. He did not seem a natural arts man given the showbiz glitz of his background, but that surface, as sometimes happened to Michael's disadvantage, was misleading. I could have had no stauncher supporter.

When the programme had its inevitable British critical baptism of fire he kept smiling, railed amiably against our critics and urged on what we had done, especially the programmes on classical music, opera and ballet which (I ought to have sensed from the beginning) he knew a lot about. Most importantly for me he waved on the unwieldy package of arts which I wished to deliver in the one programme, from popular music to grand opera.

He was, overall, a marvellous advocate for John Birt's factual operation at LWT. An enthusiast, a viewer, a writer of welcome notes of approval and, occasionally, of interesting notes of disagreement. But he could also be seen urging on the then outrageously lavish Stanley Baxter, nicking football from the BBC, and generally giving LWT a profile for fun, style and profit. I regretted his decision to leave to work in Hollywood and perhaps in retrospect he might too, although I suspect he is an Edith Piaf man. When he came back he certainly hurled himself first into the BBC and then into Channel 4.

There was much binding among the broadcasters when he got to Channel 4. At the time I wrote at length defending him, pointing particularly to his devotion to programme-makers, but such was the anti-Grade feeling at the time that what I wrote provoked its own opposition because, it seemed, some people did not want Michael Grade at Channel 4 at any price and they were not prepared to listen.

His achievements for Channel 4, well recorded over the past week, confounded the pessimists. They did not entirely still the critics of whom, ironically only a year ago, I became one. In Michael's zeal to retrieve, as he saw it, the full Channel 4 measure of income from advertising (which meant ending ITV's previous umbrella arrangement with Channel 4) he hit out strongly against ITV programmes. This went on a bit. I said to him once or twice privately that those of us who worked on *Prime Suspect*, *Cracker* or *World In Action*, the *News at Ten* or *The South Bank Show*, and in the Regions, were increasingly fed up with being told that we worked on a dreadful downmarket channel. Typical of the evangelist Michael is, he persisted. It was clearly unfair and it narked several of us and we hit back. A TV channel is as easy to find fault with as a newspaper, a novel, a politician or a member of the royal, or indeed your own, family.

Michael and I fell out over this for a while, which I regretted. By that time, perhaps, he was raw to criticism, having been dubbed "the Pornographer in Chief". The phrase had begun to tag him as maddeningly as a cruel schoolboy's tin tied to a dog's tail. It was and is very unfair, although I was not an admirer of *The Word* or *The Girlie Show* among others. But this was not pornography. It was a deliberate attempt at best — as with the homosexual and lesbian essays — to stretch and educate public taste. Such an attempt is bound to backfire from time to time. But for a man of Michael Grade's sense of honour to be saddled as Chief Pornographer was, I suspect, intolerable for him and may well have proved decisive in bringing about his rather sudden departure from Channel 4.

On the other hand he has stayed in no job for longer than nine years and perhaps that is the nature of the man. He leaves Channel 4 in fine financial shape. He has Pied Pipered the advertisers in a quite extraordinary way. Of all the channels it is the freest to go now for new talent and nourish it, which is the best part of broadcasting. He has seen off the privatising pirates, for the moment anyway, although they may be hiding behind the headland of an election, and he has also left a gaping hole as Jeremy Isaacs did before him.

The runners and riders are now being geed up in several columns across the press. So what is the Identikit of the possible winner?

Someone, necessarily, who can personify the channel and take it through the media to the audiences, the advertisers and opinion-makers as both Michael and Jeremy did. Someone who is experienced in the television business, perhaps, but there are other parallel businesses which could provide a contender: the theatre, the cinema and newspapers are each offering one obvious candidate at the moment.

Deep knowledge of Channel 4 itself could be a persuasive factor and the internal candidate is undoubtedly a strong one. Politics are now woven into the carpet of television and your new man or woman would have to be a convincing advocate in those urgent and demanding Westminster corridors and committee rooms.

A track record of variety and clout simply has to be there for the best programme-makers to pitch in and follow because if they do not — and the competition for their talent is intensifying by the month — then Channel 4 will soon lose its distinction, its remit and probably its unique funding.

A three-pipe problem then for Sir Michael Bishop and his board. Luckily they have Michael Grade with them for the next few months until they decide to let the smoke out of the chimney.

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CONCERTS: A Schubert marathon; Järvi at the CBSO

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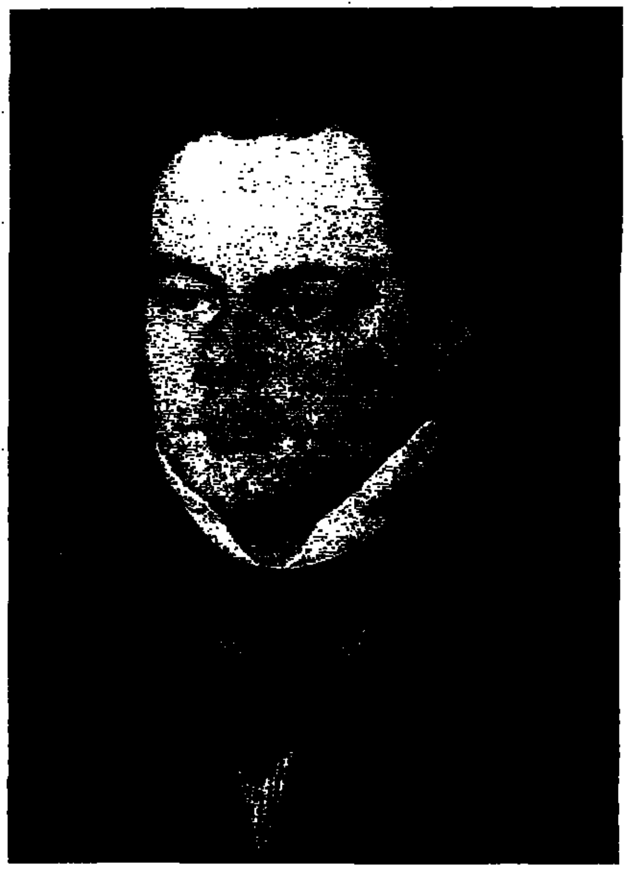

Schubert: a Wigmore Hall celebration for his bicentenary

Running a few minutes short of six hours, this must have been one of the longest concerts ever held in the Wigmore Hall. But the 200th anniversary of Franz Schubert's birth deserves something to match the "heavenly lengths" that Schumann famously described in Schubert's music, and Friday's event (broadcast live by Radio 3) was a magnificent and affectionate celebration of history's greatest tunesmith. What's more, nearly everyone in the packed hall stayed to the end. Schubert's golden thread of melody weaves an enchantment that no true music-lover would willingly break, even to catch the last Tube.

Devised by the pianist András Schiff, whose own elegant playing was a mainstay of the evening, the concert ranged widely and by no means predictably across the vast quantity of chamber music, Lieder and choral settings that flowed from Schubert before his death at 31. For me, the highlights — because they seemed to capture the all-encompassing generosity and warmth of Schubert's music — came towards the end.

The remarkable baritone Thomas Quasthoff poured his heart into six Lieder, including an urgent *Erlkönig* and a wonderfully serene *An die Musik*. Beautifully shadowed by the horn-player Radovan Vlatković, the tenor Christoph Prégardien sang the lovely *Auf dem Strom* with the honeyed tone that had sometimes eluded him in an earlier group of Lieder.

And, most poignantly of all, Angelika Kirchschlager, a young Austrian mezzo who surely has a big future, joined the BBC Singers in a tender and valedictory account of *Ständchen* under Stephen Cleobury's direction. Kirchschlager may not yet colour her phrases with sufficient subtlety; nevertheless, she also sang four Lieder with enough intensity to dispel anybody's disappointment that a more famous young mezzo, Cecilia Bartoli, decided not to honour Schubert with an appearance.

If Schiff and Bruno Canino had seemed cool in three of the Grand Marches for Piano Duet, they probed more deeply the superb Fantasy in F Minor — one of the last pieces that Schubert wrote, and a work that seems to burst out of its piano-duet skin and take on dark and daring symphonic proportions. The great String Quartet in G, D887, has a similarly epic scale, with its turbulent and barely resolved tussles between major and minor tonalities and its jittery tremolandos. And the Takacs Quartet certainly gave it a restless interpretation, emphasising its nightmarish quality with feverish changes in speed and a startlingly modern range of timbres.

Not everything came off, and this certainly wasn't a reading to appeal to listeners who put a premium on perfect intonation or luscious tone. But in an evening of rather suave music-making, the Takacs did at least hint at a very different side of Schubert: the haunted, lonely figure who knew poverty, despair, illness and almost continuous professional failure — and yet whose sublime song never faltered. On his 200th birthday, we saluted not only genius but courage. Schubert turned his face towards the dark with his humanity shining like a beacon.

RICHARD MORRISON

Colour of harmony

CBSO/Järvi
Birmingham

What the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra surely must have known when it offered Paavo Järvi the post of principal guest conductor was that he had great potential for development. What it certainly did not know is that a year later it would be offering the post of principal conductor to an even younger musician from a not dissimilar Scandinavian background, and with a special interest in much the same area of the repertoire.

Clearly, the Oramo/Järvi combination is not ideal for an orchestra that would like to get the most out of its conductor hierarchy in terms of variety in taste and experience. But the CBSO cannot regret having contracted a principal guest conductor who has developed so much in authority in the few years it has known him. Järvi's latest concert in Symphony Hall was a highly accomplished performance on his part, fluent and precise in technique and brilliantly well calculated in structural strategy.

Equally impressive was the quality of the CBSO's partnership with Truls Mørk, the soloist in Prokofiev's late and problematic Sinfonia Concertante for cello and orchestra, Op 125. No mere concerto, as its title indicates, it requires not only a close relationship between conductor and soloist but also an orchestra as well prepared in details of colour and articulation and as positive in virtuoso presence as the cellist himself. Given those things, together with a soloist who not only plays the notes impeccably but who also knows what they mean in the long term, the Sinfonia Concertante emerges as something akin to the coherent and spontaneous inspiration which, as a matter of historical fact, it isn't.

If there was nothing specially atmospheric about Järvi's account of Debussy's *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un faune*, his interpretation of Sibelius's Third Symphony in C was an uncommonly interesting achievement. The recently fashionable view of the work as a pale pastoral is clearly not for him. His idea seems to have been to enrich it with colour and to build it into something as impressive as the Second or Fifth. It lost a little in grace and freshness in the process, but it did live up to the case which he so eagerly made for it.

GERALD LARNER

■ OPERA

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ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

This, minister, is Jean Moreau

CINEMA: Ignore the sex-change — the archetypal Frenchwoman is still just that. **Anna Kythreotis** reports

"Once a film is finished you're not the same as when you started, if you did it properly," says Jeanne Moreau. Her latest incarnation, *The Proprietor*, opens this week

Jeanne Moreau had not heard about Stephen Dorrell's gaffe when, during a speech at the Cannes Film Festival two years ago, the then Heritage Minister referred to the president of the jury as "the distinguished Frenchman Monsieur Jean Moreau". "He is a chauvinist pig," Moreau responds crisply. "You mean that *never* could he imagine the president of the jury could be a woman?"

Not exactly. Rather that the Heritage Minister was rather unqualified for the job. Moreau can top that: "I was making a film in Russia just before the Wall fell, and I was introduced to the Minister of Culture who told me that until the previous day he had been in charge of the *railways*." Moreau's laughter is adequate comment on such politicians.

For their benefit, then: Moreau is the veteran of more than a hundred films — and, if some have been undistinguished ("Taxes," she shrugs), others, most memorably *Les Amants* and *Jules et Jim*, have become part of the fabric of cinema. As the muse of Malle, Truffaut, Buñuel, Antonioni, Welles and the other leading Young Turks of the *nouvelle vague*, Moreau became the most potent symbol of that free-spirited movement, unsettling audiences with her frank sexuality and insouciance.

The screen legend bristles at the word "career". "I've never thought in terms of career, I've never made plans. If I've made the films I've made it's because of meeting the people I've met."

Her latest film, *The Proprietor*, is the result of meeting Ismail Merchant three years ago, after which the producer could not stop thinking about her and was driven, like so many others before him, to create a film for her. He conceived the story, collaborated on the screenplay and directed the picture, his second feature film as a director after the Urdu-language *In Custody*. Moreau, characteristically, agreed to the unspecified project even before there was a clearly defined part. "I am never attracted by parts, only by people," she says. "I saw *In Custody* three times and, each time, it touched something very tender inside myself. Ismail knows about human beings, human dilemmas. It's when things are not sure that they may be the most exciting. The easiest thing in the world is to say 'no'."

But she does not want to talk about the part, or the film she inspired. She has been inflamed by a newspaper report in which Michelle Pfeiffer observed that as Meryl Streep and Jessica Lange (both approaching 50) are still making films, she can hope for a few more years of screen work. "A young actress practically at the beginning of her career and she thinks like *that*. Who put that crazy idea into her head? *Who* made that law?" demands Moreau, her cigarette-scorched voice rasping with disapproval. "Ageing is marvellous because with it vanity goes away. The omnipresent strength of the ego is erased — no, it can never be entirely erased, diminished."

More than 50 years after making her stage debut with the Comédie-Française, Moreau concedes nothing to the age terrorists. At 69 she is still a striking, vibrant presence. And, more to the point, she remains very much in demand; *The Proprietor* is one of three films shot back to back. Nor is she ready to be entombed in the actresses' graveyard of grandmother roles and cameos. In *The Proprietor* she plays her life's role as a magnet for the attention of three men — her former husband, a former lover, and a young admirer.

To a large extent, Moreau's enduring image as the quintessential Frenchwoman — cerebral, sensuous, enigmatic, intense — has been defined by the parts she has played, although she claims not to identify with her characters. Nevertheless, they haunt her. "They dig inside of you and bring out things you might not have known or thought of, feelings you didn't know were there. I can never discard them. I have always said that once a film is finished you're not the same as when you started, if you did it properly."

Merchant decided to cast her as a writer before he knew about her fascination with books, a passion that began when she was a child growing up without them. "I loved books, but had to hide in order to read — reading was considered a great sin, worse than having sex." Perhaps it was her choice of literature: by the age of 11 she had done most of the French classics, including Zola.

Subsequently, many of the leading literary figures of the 20th century — Gide, Malraux, Cocteau, Hemingway, Henry Miller — became her friends. Her exigency, she says, stems from her association with them and their works. "It makes you more demanding, not easily satisfied. I want everything to be, not perfect, but exact and precise and clean. Like great writing."

Moreau has written and directed two films, *Lumière* and *L'Adolescente*, and is currently at work on her third, an adaptation of Joyce Carol Oates's novel, *Solstice*. She contributed a lyrical introduction to Merchant's account of the genesis of their film, *Once Upon a Time*, (published by Bloomsbury), and has been working intermittently on what she describes as a *dictionnaire subjectif*, an alphabetical list of words and the memories and ideas they evoke.

It is not, she insists, an autobiography, which she has no intention of writing. "How can I write about my life," she asks, "when I am still living it?"

● The Proprietor *opens on Friday*

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Rise and fall of the surname

Derwent May is struck by the new familiarity of the age

Nowadays, when I have to telephone someone I don't know in a media organisation or PR firm, and I give my name, I hear the instant reply: "Hello, Derwent!" Surnames are out.

Among young people, they are even more out. My children tell me that they know the surnames of hardly any of their wide circle of friends. When they introduce acquaintances to each other, they would find it as bizarre to say their surnames as their parents would to leave the surnames out. Christian names, first names and nicknames are what they know and live with.

So the surname has had quite a brief life. It began in the 12th and 13th centuries, when lawyers and tax collectors needed to add something to all the Johns and Williams they were dealing with in order to distinguish them. They wrote them down as Johannes filius Roberti, William Marysone, or Geoffrey by the field.

Poorer people, with whom officials at first transacted very little business, acquired surnames only in the 16th century. And to this day it is still a mystery how the hereditary or family surname developed. How did Williamson become a family name when further generations were not sons of a William? We do not know.

The heyday of the surname was, I think, roughly the century from the 1850s to the 1950s. The schools, the Army and the Navy, the growing Civil Service... all stuck firmly and grimly to surnames in their masculine dealings in those generations. Even novelists followed them: Joseph Conrad's great seaman-narrator is never anything but "Marlowe".

Moreover, surnames could be doubled up. When a girl from an impoverished gentry family made a marriage with a thriving *nouveau riche* entrepreneur, their two surnames were added together and hyphenated.

It suited both parties. The old family name survived in front and the new man at the end got a boost. The resulting name was also, for several generations, a formidable social weapon, creating awe among many possessors of a mere single surname. Rightly, it came to be called a "double-barrelled" name.

Before and just after the last war, the second or third generation of some of these hyphenated families practically took over the arts world in Britain. There was Desmond Shawe-Taylor the music critic, Philip Hope-Wallace the theatre critic, Rupert Hart-Davis the publisher, John Pope-Hennessy the art expert and his wild writer-brother James, Edmund Penning-Rowsell the claret sage... one could go on. They were a terrible nuisance to editors of weekly magazines with narrow columns, their names taking up three lines with an ugly hyphen in one of them. Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd goes on causing the same problem.

The hyphenated name produced other difficulties, too. When he was a left-wing poet in the Thirties, Cecil Day-Lewis discreetly dropped his hyphen, but when he became Poet Laureate, he put it back again. Tony Benn has dropped the "Wedgwood" in his name, but that is a traditional baptismal name in his family, not part of a surname.

The surname still reigned supreme in schools after the Second World War. The obituaries editor of *The Times*, Anthony Howard, has told me that when he was in a house play at Westminster in the late 1940s, the schoolboy producer had a programme printed which gave the full Christian name and surname of the actors. When the housemaster saw it, he fell into a rage. He had all the programmes reprinted, with the names in the form of "Howard, A."

There are current rearguard actions in defence of the surname, especially in the United States. A book recently appeared there called *Surnames for Women*, by Susan J. Kupper. This is a help-book for women who want to keep their own surnames when they marry, or even to invent a completely new one for themselves or their children. The examples she gives of the latter are not encouraging. A Marc Greenwood and Susan Ransom have given their children the surname "Ranwood", which sounds like one of those house names popular in the Thirties. Another couple have adopted the surname "Ailanthus" because it is the name of "a tough, common tree, and doesn't sound cutesy", they say. I rather think they are swimming against the tide.

> Men used to like the way in which surnames gave way to Christian names

However, when I was teaching in Indonesia some years ago, I had several Javanese students who had only one, given name, and I saw European history beginning to repeat itself.

One of my best students signed himself "Noegroho A.N." and I asked him what the initials stood for.

"I added them myself," he said, "because I thought that it sounded better. They mean 'anak Noegroho' — son of Noegroho, which is also my father's name." There was filius Roberti all over again.

Here, however, students are firmly set in the opposite direction. I doubt if Swampy, Ian and Muppet Dave, while protesting down the Devon tunnels, had any idea of what other names their fellows could claim.

An older generation may deplore the loss. Men used to like the way in which surnames gave way to Christian names only as a friendship grew closer ("Er... why don't you call me George?"). But as the new generation grow older, they will experience one undoubted benefit. If they become as dreadful at forgetting people's names at parties as their parents are, at least they will have 50 per cent less to try to remember.

Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew has his critics. But his country is becoming more British than Britain

An Anglo-Chinese economic miracle

William Rees-Mogg

These days, the overseas Chinese may be better at being British than the British. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are Anglo-Chinese cities; the people are largely Chinese, but the culture has been conditioned historically by the British connection, rather as Europe's culture was shaped by the Roman Empire. These Chinese cities have overtaken modern Britain, not just in wealth but in energy of response. Both enjoy safe streets; Singapore has kept out the Triad gangs. Both have succeeded in combining Chinese entrepreneurial vigour with British standards of legality and freedom from corruption.

This year Hong Kong will pass into Chinese sovereignty. No one can tell how long the virtuous aspects of British culture will survive. Singapore has been independent since 1965; those elements of British culture that survive do so because Singapore's people have chosen to keep them.

The two cities are very different. Hong Kong is a bustling place, always crowded, hyperactive, the Manhattan of Asia. Singapore is a larger island with a more tropical climate; calmer, easier, more polite and thoughtful. If Hong Kong is like New York, Singapore is like a tropical Boston. Indeed, Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, recently said he hoped to make Singapore "the Boston of the East".

The Straits Times last Saturday had an interview with Cham Tao Soon, the President of Nanyang Technological University, which is about the same size as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He argued that his university and the separate National University of Singapore "can try to be a Harvard of Asia, a dominant hub of learning in this region... Other universities in Asia are not as good. Tokyo University is eminent but it is a finishing school type of situation. It is hard to get in, but once you are in, you don't have to work hard."

The three million people of Singapore are probably better educated than the 60 million or so people of Britain. I asked one young Singapore Chinese worker whether he, like the Hong Kong Chinese, spoke Mandarin or Cantonese. He replied that he spoke four languages: the southern Chinese dialect of his parents' original province; Mandarin, which he had learnt for 12 years at school; English (perfectly); and Malay. It is not usual in Britain for students to graduate from secondary school speaking four languages.

In Singapore as in South Africa, the father of the nation, Lee Kuan Yew, the senior minister, is still alive. He does of course have his critics, notably including the lawyer and opposition politician Tang Siang Hong, against whom Lee Kuan Yew has recently filed four law suits.

The US State Department in its annual report on human rights says the Singapore Government "generally respected the human rights of its citizens" but that "the Government continued to intimidate opposition politicians and their parties". Like Nelson Mandela, Lee Kuan Yew combines being a world statesman with being a tough practical politician.

When I saw him last Friday, I asked about Mr Tang. Mr Lee argued that this was "a very special case" and that Mr Tang was a "well-known Chinese chauvinist of extreme views".

What seems to be clear is that the Singapore Government makes a sharp distinction between opposition criticism of policy which is freely made and freely reported and what it regards as attacks on the system itself. That is rather like the distinction Margaret Thatcher made in the 1980s between the Labour Party and Arthur Scargill.

Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party has long had an overwhelming majority in parliament and the Singapore system is undoubtedly supported by a large majority of the public. In casual political conversations, one finds that Lee Kuan Yew is not regarded by the citizens of Singapore as a dictator, even as a benevolent dictator, but as the architect of a prosperous and harmonious society. Most seemed to admire what he has done. They have come in the past 30 years from poverty to prosperity and are grateful for a standard of living higher than Britain's.

The Singapore system is in essence the opposite of the British welfare state, and not by accident. When Lee Kuan Yew was a young student in London, he had arrived as a socialist. His experience converted him to a belief that personal responsibility backed by the family should be the basis for social welfare. In Singapore he created a system of health, education, housing and welfare built around compulsory saving and the principle of personal responsibility. Health, housing and pensions are largely paid for out of the personal accounts of the compulsory savings system; they have built up personal invested capital on a huge scale in Singapore to an extent unmatched anywhere else in a property-owning democracy. Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson have both visited Singapore and discussed the Central Provident Fund that has given Singapore the best welfare system in Asia.

In health, the State pays for hospitals and their equipment, but individuals have to contribute to the cost of treatment out of their medicare savings accounts. Their medical treatment is the same, but the level of convenience is different. If a patient chooses to enter a hospital in the C class, he or she will pay 20 per cent and the State 80 per cent. C class is what in Britain would be called a public ward; by Singapore standards most of the NHS is a C-class service. There are two B-class levels of convenience — 40 per cent and the other 60 per cent cost to the patient's medicare savings. There is an A class with a private room and a telephone, in which the patient pays 100 per cent of the cost of the treatment. The result has been a well-funded health service, in which a means test is applied by self-selection. Absolutely free care is available for those with no money, but fewer than 1 per cent use it because it loses face for the family.

The personal account system has made many of the poorer people into substantial capital owners. An ordinary worker in a manual job can reach the state of owning a house valued at £100,000 to £150,000, with £50,000 of investments and £10,000 in his medicare fund; at middle management level, one could double these figures.

When he was a student, Lee Kuan Yew decided that the British health service, which was free to everybody, involved an unlimited liability that would "kill" Singapore. From the beginning, he told the people of Singapore that equality of outcome was an impossible objective, but it was the aim of politicians with "a soft heart and a soft head". At the same time, he committed Singapore to complete equality in terms of race, religion and language.

Janadas Devan, reviewing for *The Straits Times* Stanley Wolpert's new life of Pandit Nehru, another charismatic Asian father of a nation, made a comment characteristic of Singapore. "It is extraordinary," he wrote, "how many of Asia's great revolutionaries of the first half of this century became failures once in power. Mao Tse-tung frogmarched his people from one calamity to another; Sukarno became the pantaloon of the non-aligned world; Nehru spent 17 years as Prime Minister of India depleting the promise of Indian independence."

Thirty-two years after independence, Lee Kuan Yew's work in building a smaller nation looks much more solid and much more successful than theirs.

The lure of the local

Peter Riddell asks: Are the Lib Dems up to Ashdown's ambitions?

Paddy Ashdown has always wanted the Liberal Democrats to be more than a party of local government, and to have influence over power nationally. But that strategy is now under threat. Tony Blair has simultaneously offered the opportunity of a more broadly based centre-left politics and presented a powerful new electoral challenge to the national ambitions of the Liberal Democrats.

That has exposed the central-local dilemma. The rebuilding of the party under Mr Ashdown since the Liberal-SDP merger in 1988 has rested on its local successes, which really started when Sir David Steel was leader between 1976 and 1988. By contrast, the advances under Jo Grimond (1956-67) and Jeremy Thorpe (1967-76) were essentially parliamentary, and short-lived. But during the 1990s the Liberal Democrats have become the second party of local government in England.

Most activists have understandably concentrated on council activities — where many control large budgets — rather than the generally remote hope of electing an MP. For them, May 1 is the most important political date this year, regardless of whether the general election is held then, because the party will be defending its sweeping gains in the county elections of 1993. Any parliamentary successes will be a happy bonus, but a priority in only a few target seats. That has never been enough for Mr Ashdown, or his allies. At the last conference, Menzies Campbell said he had the impression that "some of our thousands of councillors regard control of the local authority as a greater prize [than Westminster]".

Mr Ashdown's national ambitions have produced tensions with the diverse local strategies. He recently told council leaders that he could never promise not to do or say anything that might cause them problems somewhere in England. Though the party, in much of rural southern England, has supplanted Labour as the main challenger to the Tories, the Liberal Democrats and Labour are bitter rivals in the big cities of the North. Liz Lynne in Rochdale and her neighbour, Chris Davies, have been most vigorous in opposing any hint of an agreement with Labour. The strong pro-European stance of the leadership can also conflict with the need to win over Cornish fishermen and Devon farmers who are hostile to Brussels. A sizeable minority of party activists, as well as voters, takes a sceptic view.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The party faces a squeeze from the Blairite Labour Party. Not only is the Liberal Democrats' poll rating a half to two thirds of the level before Mr Blair's election, but deserters from the party since 1992 have broken seven to one in favour of Labour. This could prevent the rise in Liberal Democrat votes and MPs seen on the last two occasions when the Tories lost office, in 1964 and February 1974. Party strategists seem reconciled to winning less than the 18 per cent share of 1992, but they regard the 11 per cent shown by the latest MORI poll as artificially low and argue that it should be boosted by the publicity of a campaign.

More important, however, is the targeting of resources into a few dozen winnable seats together with tactical voting (switching behind whichever party can beat the incumbent). This should mean the party has more MPs for any given share of the national vote. Local elections suggest that it is winning more seats per vote and is doing better in target seats than before the 1992 election.

But the party still has to win a sufficiently large share of the overall vote to give targeting and tactical voting a chance to counteract a national swing in favour of Labour. No one is sure what the threshold is, but, at a guess, the party probably needs to win at least 15 per cent nationally to be sure of retaining the 20 seats that it won in 1992, let alone to make gains. Mr Ashdown wants national influence to achieve electoral reform not least as a protection against the unpopularity which the Liberals have always suffered when a Labour government becomes unpopular.

Despite occasional bursts of frustration, Mr Ashdown is remarkably resilient and believes there is an opportunity to be distinctive from Labour in view of what he sees as Gordon Brown's implausible caution on tax and public spending. Mr Ashdown argues that voters would support a limited tax increase for, say, schools if they could be sure that the money would be properly spent. Ideas are being floated about a taxpayers' charter setting out where money is spent and possibly also a ballot form allowing people to vote on certain options on tax and spending. Mr Ashdown temperamentally likes a blunt approach, but some activists are falling into the trap of trying to appear more left-wing than Labour, hardly a way to win former Tory supporters in the South West.

Relations with Labour have cooled a little, despite close co-operation in the Commons. Mr Blair generally gets on well with Mr Ashdown but questions whether some other MPs are really serious about the hard choice of politics and is irritated by what he regards as Liberal Democrat self-righteousness. Mr Blair also resented what he saw as a "bounce" a month ago in leaks about talks between the parties on how constitutional reform would be implemented. Mr Blair has refused to shift from his position that he is "not persuaded" of the case for electoral reform. Vague talk of a joint statement on priorities for government has disappeared.

After the election, a coalition or even a formal agreement is unlikely, not least because of internal Liberal Democrat opposition. More likely is an evolving relationship starting with discussions on priorities like Scottish devolution. Everything will depend on the number of MPs. A Labour landslide and fewer than 20 Liberal Democrat MPs would make the party irrelevant. That would also probably mark the end not only of Mr Ashdown's leadership but also of his national ambitions — with a likely reaction in favour of a town hall strategy.

THE TIMES DIARY

Wrong rights

CONJUGAL rights for prisoners may be the issue that prevents John Prescott from ever usurping Jack Straw as Home Secretary in a Labour government, as many in Westminster believe he would sorely like to do. According to Colin Brown's new biography of Labour's deputy leader, Prescott's support for free love in jail has made him the prison warder's foe.

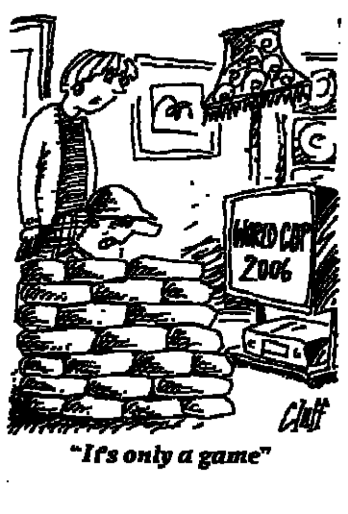
The sight of cons conjoining with their spouses has always been enough to make a screw slam down his dinner tray. In 1976, however, as MP for Kingston upon Hull, the ever-conscientious Prescott thought it a disgrace that prisoners were denied marital sex.

"Sexual deprivation," he told the Labour Government of the day, "must surely constitute one of the worst and particularly most harmful aspects of loss of liberty. These are processes which produce frustration and tension."

When the prisoners heard of his campaign, Prescott instantly became a prison pin-up. For the warders, however, he was a troublemaker. So when he turned up at his local jail one day to expound on his sex-for-all theme, they took revenge. Noticing that the tax disc on his car was out of date, they tipped off the police, and Prescott was duly fined.

● *News of the death of Godfrey Baseley, creator of* The Archers *and tricycle rider, was quick to reach The Bull at Inkberrow in Worcestershire, inspiration for The Bull at Ambridge. "We just heard," said the barman, "but we'll have to think how to commemorate him."*

Over at the Vernon Arms in nearby Hanbury, the model for the Cat and Fiddle, Graham Cooper, the owner said: "Lots of people in the village knew Mr Baseley and they'll be drinking to him later."



"It's only a game"

Hard focus

EVEN THE most revisionist of English historians will be made to look like intellectual weaklings when Shekhar Kapur, the Indian film director, tackles his next subject. Kapur made his name with the shocking film *Bandit Queen*, a true-ish story, which featured endless gang rapes and mental and physical abuse. Now he has been signed to direct a big-budget British film about Elizabeth I. If his previous work is anything to go by, do not expect a Greensleeves picture of 16th-century life.

● *As Stanley Gibbons was to stamps, so Lord Skidelsky is to think-tanks. He has just secured a hefty grant for work to start at his new Centre for Post Collectivist Studies, the international arm of his London-based Social Market Foundation. The CPCS will link up with think-tanks in Moscow, Boston and Washington to develop grand schemes for Skidelsky's pet regions of Eastern Europe. In between all this, and furious games of ping-pong, he has just begun work on the last volume of his shelf-busting biography of Keynes.*

Flat stats

SINGING from the same hymn sheet is proving difficult for even the most senior Tories. Take two letters sent by the Prime Minister and the party chairman to their respective Cambridgeshire constituencies, Huntingdon and Peterborough. John Major writes: "Thanks to increased government funding, Cambridgeshire's Police Authority ... is set to have 83 more police officers in just one year." Yet according to Brian Mawhinney, "Thanks to increased government funding, Cambridgeshire's Police Authority is recruiting 50 extra police officers this year."

Health is no simpler. "Since 1979," writes Mawhinney, "the number of NHS patients has risen dramatically — from 5.5 million to 8.5 million last year." Major, however, says that the number of patients treated has risen almost 60 per cent "to just over 10.5 million." A pooling of statistics may be in order before the general election.

Sore point

GEORGE SOROS, the financier, has been hauled into the row surrounding Roisin McAliskey, 25, daughter of the former Irish nationalist MP Bernadette Devlin. Miss McAliskey is in Holloway prison awaiting extradition to Germany to stand trial concerning last year's mortar bomb attack on the British base at Osnabrück.

Soros: save McAliskey

Human Rights Watch/Helsinki, a New York-based outfit of which Soros is a leading supporter, has issued a five-page whinge, citing Soros by name and claiming that Miss McAliskey is being subjected to "appalling" conditions. These include "psychological and emotional strain", and "an appalling violation of the most basic standards of care for prisoners".

Just for the record, HM Prison Service says this is rot.

● *There is an uncontentious look to this year's Booker Prize judges. At their head is Professor Gillian Beer, who served served as a judge in 1993. The rest of her team are the writer Rachel Billington, Jan Dalley, literary editor of* The Independent on Sunday, *Professor Dan Jacobson of University College London and Jason Cowley, a feature writer on this newspaper.*

Ear ear

Rowntree: winning ear

ROLLING RUCKS, quick ball, second-phase play, all of rugby union's modern methods are as nothing when compared with the old-fashioned terror induced in the opposition by the sight of Graham Rowntree's cauliflower ears. An earful of hostile studs for Rowntree, front row forward for England and Leicester, is, according to teammates, like a tickle on the dewlaps for a bloodhound.

According to my man in the bootroom, "Graham's ears have become like Brian Moore's front teeth. The worse they are, the better for England." They looked shocking on Saturday, and England trounced Scotland.

P·H·S

STAND BY THE ROCK

Britain must not compromise on Gibraltar's sovereignty

Speaking in the House of Commons last week, John Major reaffirmed a British commitment to Gibraltar which should not have been in any doubt at all. The Government, he said, stood firmly by the Rock, and would never hand over sovereignty to Spain against the wishes of the Gibraltarian people.

Gibraltar was buoyed by Mr Major's declaration, as it was by a robust statement to the same effect by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, put out the day before. Both assertions were made in response to a leaked proposal by Abel Matutes, Spain's Foreign Minister, suggesting a lengthy period of Anglo-Spanish "co-sovereignty" over Gibraltar, after which the colony would "revert to Spain".

In an interview with *The Times*, published today, Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's moderate Chief Minister, describes the Matutes proposals as "absurd and laughable". He is correct. Both Mr Major and Mr Rifkind were right to reject it without compromise: anything less would have rightly earned them widespread condemnation.

Britain has made a commitment to Gibraltar of a very precise kind. That commitment has not only been written into the colony's Constitution of 1969 (which Spain denounces as an illegal document), it has also been woven into the practice of all British Governments since then. That weave cannot easily be unravelled, nor should attempts be made to do so. Gibraltar, furthermore, is a political issue on which a cross-party consensus has always existed. Mr Major made the Government's position clear in public last week and Labour spokesmen on foreign affairs have privately assured Mr Caruana that a Blair government would respect the wishes of Gibraltar's people no less closely.

Spain, however, has never recognised the Gibraltarian people as valid shareholders in their own future. While that country was under the dictatorship of General Franco, such a posture was not unduly surprising: notions such as "self-determination" were not part of the General's vocabulary. Yet what is surprising, even bewildering, is the abject failure of a democratic post-Franco Spain to grasp the fact that Britain can find no proposals for Gibraltar acceptable unless they take account of the freely expressed wishes of its people.

For that reason, "co-sovereignty" is a stillborn idea. Gibraltar's people simply do not want to be Spanish, even in hotly-bargained fractions. Is it so remarkable that Gibraltarians should fail to muster even an iota of enthusiasm for Spain when its Foreign Minister blithely describes them as having "no standing" in the matter of their own future? Can Gibraltarians really be expected to warm to Spain when their daily experience at the border is frequently disagreeable? And can they be expected to condone such petty harassment as the refusal by Spain even to recognise Gibraltar's international telephone code?

In spite of Spain's behaviour, Mr Caruana has declared himself to be in favour of dialogue with Madrid. He has also addressed Spain's concerns about illicit activities on the Rock with an exemplary firmness, all but stamping out the smuggling trade which flourished under Joe Bossano, his predecessor. Still, Spain has shown itself incapable of shifting its policy. Instead, Madrid promotes projects such as "co-sovereignty", which have been mooted, and rejected, in the past. Spain must take account of Gibraltar's wishes, as Britain does. If it cannot, it will not secure the Rock even by the next millennium.

CONSTITUTIONAL CLASH

Conservatives undermine themselves by resistance to change

As our third election guide published today outlines, constitutional matters seem set to occupy an unusually prominent place in the forthcoming campaign. That has not happened because of intense pressure from the electorate. Polls suggest voters rarely see these issues as a high priority. However, the same surveys suggest considerable sympathy for a range of proposed reforms.

The electorate takes an eminently defensible position. For most people, most of the time, their employment prospects or the quality of education are obviously of greater importance than the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into national law. The claim, often made by Liberal Democrats among others, that the current British system and structures represent an affront — if not an outright threat — to democratic life, strikes a majority as either exaggerated or implausible. The next Parliament should not have an agenda saturated by such questions.

That is not to say that the constitution has no need of care and attention. Limited but important innovation is long overdue. Our historic arrangements have served us well but should not be worshipped as the embodiment of perfection. They have been severely strained by the demands of European Union membership and an increasingly assertive European Court of Justice. The Major administration has enthusiastically pursued the concept of government by contract, producing, quite properly, mountains of data on schools, hospitals, the police and transportation. How odd, then, that it should be rule out the merest possibility of writing down some of the most fundamental contracts of them all.

Reform would augment, not offend, the Conservative Party's principles. Fear of the intrusive state, and thus attraction to a Bill of Rights and Freedom of Information Act, should come naturally to those who profess a preference for smaller government. Similarly, suspicion of centralisation, and thus backing for stronger checks and balances, should rest comfortably with Tories.

In recent times far too much control has been seized by Whitehall. More enlightened Thatcherites such as Ferdinand Mount have recognised this trend and encouraged its reversal. It seems unlikely that such thinking will be reflected in the Conservative manifesto. If so, the electorate will face a choice that can be crudely summarised: no change (Tory); some change (Labour); or all change (Liberal Democrat). In that case many might regard the option advanced by Tony Blair as the acceptable middle course.

There is much, though, in both the principle and detail of Labour's plans that demands vigorous scrutiny. The future relationship between a national and Scottish parliament requires much greater clarification. Jack Straw's plans for the English regions have failed to captivate even those otherwise inclined towards constitutional change. The depth of Tony Blair's commitment to restoring local government is uncertain. At present only London has received precise promises of new powers.

Were the Tories willing to promote thoughtful proposals of their own, they might reap rich rewards from a debate on the constitution. But instead they appear determined to stand as the defenders of official secrecy and overbearing centralism. This blinkered and rigid approach may allow Labour to proceed with a package that wants considerable improvement. A one-sided discussion would not be in the best interests of constitution or country. If it happens, the Conservatives will have only themselves to blame.

MYSTIC MUG

Fear of losing makes for midweek lottery madness

Wednesdays, it is said, will never be the same again. Whether or not this is a welcome prospect is rather passed over. After an aggressive multimillion-pound advertising blitz, and with the allure of a £10 million guaranteed jackpot on offer, the era of the midweek lottery will arrive in all its glory this week.

There are those who hope the public will reject another chance to line Camelot's pockets. But those who think the midweek lottery will flop are destined to be diappointed. Contrary to expectations, the British have already proved themselves the most enthusiastic participants in lottery draws on the planet. This will almost certainly continue in the Wednesday slot.

The reason why so many of us lay down our stake so often is not, as worthy church figures frequently fret, a reflection of cynical greed. On the whole, we realise that the odds make the practice somewhat less than rational. Most would love to give up the lottery habit. One factor stops us. The utter terror that the Saturday we did not enter would be the one where our long-cherished six numbers came up. The humiliation of being "the man who missed millions by staying slumped in his chair after the rugby" is just too horrifying to contemplate.

This trap will ensnare us on Wednesdays. Millions of our fellow citizens, who would stare blankly if asked their bank account or national insurance numbers can rattle off rows of lottery choices as if their very lives depended on it. The possibility, no matter how puny, that their chosen set could appear in midweek will ensure the success of Camelot's latest venture. Human psychology has made for hopeless cases.

Now that stupidity and superstition have come together there is no limit to how far the phenomenon can advance. Will it only be a matter of time before balls spin on a daily basis with a matiné on Saturday for good measure? No politician will dare to prevent it. After all, as this appears to be the one type of taxation that the electorate is not only willing, but desperate, to contribute, who can blame our elected masters for joining in the exploitation.

Conservative Central Office asks how Tony Blair will pay for his purported £30 billion in spending commitments without increasing taxes. No problem. The lottery could solve all new Labour's budgetary dilemmas. Monday for the NHS, Tuesday for education and so on. Before long Gordon Brown might cut the basic rate of income tax to ten pence and still stuff the pockets of the public sector unions.

There is, in short, little hope. A few hardy souls will resist. They might avoid newspaper pages and newsagents' windows on Thursday mornings at first. It will not last long. The moment they hear that someone has won the Wednesday jackpot by backing their Saturday numbers, they will be hooked. Most punters will believe that once a week is enough — but it could be two.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Bloody Sunday inquiry 'a mistake'

From Mr Andrew Hunter, MP for Basingstoke (Conservative)

Sir, This week's call from Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, the SDLP leader, John Hume, and others for a second inquiry into "Bloody Sunday" may be well intentioned, but it is profoundly mistaken.

We could spend a long time poring over the pages of Anglo-Irish history, apportioning and reapportioning blame. The exercise would get us nowhere. Our time and energy are better spent building new relations than reliving past failures and tragedies.

The Downing Street declaration of 1993 wisely recognised that "the most urgent issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted". A second inquiry would undermine this worthy aspiration.

A selective, one-sided "Bloody Sunday" industry has emerged over the years. I believe that, 50 yards from the memorial for those who were "murdered by British paratroopers", there is a plaque in memory of a 16-year-old boy (Charles Love) who was "accidentally killed" by the IRA. Such selectivity dishonours the memory of all who have died in the Troubles.

"Bloody Sunday" was orchestrated confrontation and the ensuing tragedy has been shamelessly exploited by evil men. The call for a second inquiry plays into their hands. The IRA would rejoice if it succeeded. The Government is right to resist.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW HUNTER (Chairman,
Conservative Northern Ireland
Committee),
House of Commons.
February 1.

Implications of decision on funding a new Britannia

From Mr Maurice Frankel

Sir, In a report on January 28, "Rushed decision gave Queen no time for advice", you state that the Prime Minister and his colleagues:

> studied a ten-page report by Sir Robin Butler arguing that a publicly funded yacht was the only proper course for a national institution. Sir Robin also advised the Cabinet committee that there was no constitutional issue at stake and that therefore the Opposition did not need to be consulted.

It seems to me that ministers — the only plausible source for information on this matter — have become increasingly happy to reveal confidential Civil Service advice when it suits them. The disagreeable purpose, in the latest instance, seems to have been to transfer blame for failing to consult the Opposition about *Britannia* from themselves to Sir Robin Butler.

Given such episodes, how seriously should we take claims that confidentiality of advice is an issue of unshakeable principle? Regular publication of the minutes of the Chancellor's meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England demonstrated that some such disclosures can inform public debate without damaging decision-making.

Why not publish the advice to ministers of expert advisers in other fields, starting with the new Food Safety Adviser (letters, January 31)? A central purpose of such appointments is to reassure the public that genuine concerns will not be stifled by commercial or political considerations, which surely calls for maximum openness.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE FRANKEL,
Director,
The Campaign for Freedom of
Information,
Suite 102,
16 Baldwins Gardens, EC1.
January 31.

From Lord Ashbourne

Sir, The decision to design and build a successor to *HMY Britannia*, announced in the House of Commons on January 22 by the Defence Secretary (letters, January 24, 27, 29), is to be warmly welcomed. It is unfortunate that the issue has developed into a political hot potato, because it is a good decision for Britain and the new yacht will be a symbol of British excellence and something we can all be proud of.

As the Defence Secretary made clear, Her Majesty expects the yacht's primary role to be in support of British economic interests — presumably in boosting our exports and stimulating inward investment. Is it not therefore appropriate for her to be funded by public money? The Labour Party appears to have stated that, if elected, it would not fund the yacht out of public money, in which case suitably discreet private funding, which would be acceptable to Her Majesty, could doubtless be arranged.

We see the Royal Yacht as a national flagship and a workhorse for Britain, while also providing secure accommodation for Her Majesty, in an age of international terrorism. In no way will she be "a plaything for the royals", which is still seen by many to be her primary role.

There have been complaints that various parties were not consulted, but as recently as December 10, 1996, the Government's plans for replacing *HMY Britannia* were debated in the House of Lords, thus giving all parties an opportunity to put forward their views and to ask questions of the Government.

Yours faithfully,
ASHBOURNE
(Chairman, All-party Royal Yacht
Parliamentary Group),
House of Lords.
January 29.

From Mr Ken McDonald

Sir, I always enjoy reading William Rees-Mogg and his article today, "Shelling out to rule the waves", came up to his usual standards.

My share of the cost will only be three or four pounds so it is not a matter of great concern. What I fail to understand, as an agnostic on the monarchy, is why the Government dithered for 30 months before announcing its decision.

They are now saying the ship is essential, but there will be no yacht for several years. Pray, what will the royals do in the meantime?

Yours faithfully,
KEN McDONALD,
2 Moir's Well,
Dollar, Clackmannanshire.
January 27.

From Mrs Hilary Rosser

Sir, How appropriate it is, as we enter an election campaign in which it is often hard to distinguish between the policies of the principal parties, that the issue of the funding of a replacement for the Royal Yacht has succeeded in putting clear blue water between the parties.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY ROSSER,
18 Eastlands Crescent,
Dulwich, SE21.
January 27.

From Mr Martyn Dyer

Sir, How odd that the Conservatives wish the new Royal Yacht to be nationalised whilst the Labour Party seems to want to privatise it.

Yours sincerely,
MARTYN DYER,
Burn House, Askrigg,
Nr Leyburn, North Yorkshire.
January 27.

Mandatory sentences

From His Honour Joseph Dean

Sir, A car driver, with a blameless record, is driving at a careful speed on his own side of the road when another vehicle, stolen and driven recklessly by somebody drunk, disqualified and uninsured, careers across the road into the car, destroying it and injuring the driver.

If the car driver is found to have a milligram over the permitted level of alcohol in his blood, the court is bound by Act of Parliament to impose on him a mandatory sentence of not less than 12 months' disqualification, whatever the circumstances of the accident or the consequences to his livelihood.

Why then is it "in principle wrong" (Lord Woolf, report, January 28) or "undermining" the judiciary (Lord Carlisle of Bucklow) for an Act of Parliament to stipulate a mandatory sentence of not less than three years' imprisonment for a third offence of burglary?

Such a sentence falls well within guidelines indicated by the Court of Appeal but is only too often disregarded by the trial court.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall,
West Brabourne,
Ashford, Kent.
January 28.

Victims of trauma: the pros and cons of counselling

From Mr J. M. Bray

Sir, Ms Yvonne McEwen's attack on the "monster" of trauma counselling, saying it often creates more problems than it solves, gave me a sense of relief (report, January 29). Having had the privilege of commanding 120 professional soldiers during the initial "clear-up" after the Lockerbie air disaster in 1988, I believe that the lack of post-traumatic stress disorder among any of them was due to three factors.

First, specialists acknowledge the link between body and mind in combating stress. We were lucky, when carrying burdens across the Lockerbie countryside in late December, that we had adequate wet weather clothing and were physically fit. As a result, we did not face harrowing sights in an exhausted and almost hypothermic condition. Others did.

Secondly, we avoided being pressured into trauma. Some emergency services, for whom we held and still hold the greatest regard, collected sizeable additional payments for arduous duty, creating in my view a precondition for trauma. We were each given an extra 23 pence per day, we were told to allow groups of ten men to buy enough time at the launderette, thus ensuring that their uniforms were free from detritus and smart for the next day's work. Although not universally popular, it sent a powerful, if maybe accidental, "coping" message.

Thirdly, we avoided professional carers initially. We preferred the padre and the no-nonsense, matronly women from the Salvation Army and WRVS (I think) offering us more tea and chocolate than we could eat. Afterwards we were on duty at Edinburgh Castle and so were able to keep watch on each other, taking professional advice only where appropriate. Generally, we looked after ourselves.

I do not doubt the benefit of counselling, but we should not presume that trauma must and will happen or that few have the inner resources to deal with it unless they get assistance from professional counsellors.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BRAY,
5th Floor, Ingram House,
13-15 John Adam Street, WC2.
January 30.

From Dr Margaret Mitchell

Sir, That Ms Yvonne McEwen has "launched Britain's first trauma management and victim assistance initiative" at Abertay Fife University Centre will come as a surprise to my psychologist and psychiatrist colleagues throughout the UK who specialise in this area, and who have done so for several years.

This is less surprising, however, than the simplistic approach Ms McEwen takes to a complex and serious issue. That victims have their "psyches invaded" (whatever that might mean) at the expense of more practical considerations is a silly assertion, and it is simply untrue that disaster sites are swamped by professional counsellors. There is a danger that such assertions may damage the public perception of support organisations by suggesting that there is a superfluity of assistance for people in distress.

One never knows when tragedy will strike, and there is always an element of unpreparedness in the response. However, we have learnt a great deal about the experiences of people involved in civilian disasters, very many of whom have appreciated objective and structured psychological interventions. We know such interventions are helpful, too, from the testimony of those who are not offered support. Sometimes pulling up your socks and just getting on with it is a really hard thing to do, on your own.

Yours,
MARGARET MITCHELL,
Glasgow Caledonian University,
Department of Psychology,
Glasgow G4 0BA.
January 30.

UK steelmaking

From the Executive Director of British Steel

Sir, The reference in Melvyn Bragg's article (January 27) to "losses in skills ... in steelmaking" is not untypical of the throwaway comment made so often in relation to steelmaking in the UK. It is without foundation.

The steel industry in the UK underwent a major transformation during the Seventies and Eighties as it struggled to recover from loss of competitiveness, not just its own but also in much of its domestic customer base.

Through determined and innovative management, British Steel, the major component of the UK steel industry, not only survived, unlike much of that customer base, but actually turned itself into the world's third largest steel company and one of the most profitable, exporting around half of our production.

If the industry has failed since then it has been in promoting to the public the fact that the UK again has a major internationally competitive steel industry and a company in that industry of which they should be proud.

Yours faithfully,
TONY PEDDER, Executive Director,
British Steel plc,
9 Albert Embankment, SE1.
January 30.

Promotion of drugs

From Mr Graham Thomson

Sir, Mr Danny Kushlick (letter, January 27; see also letter, January 20) declares that Ecstasy is much safer than alcohol: but alcohol generally becomes a danger to health with prolonged excessive intake. We are reminded from time to time that a little alcohol is good for us.

By contrast, the immediate, short-term effects of a person taking even one tablet of Ecstasy are still relatively unknown. The effects of long-term, regular use can, at the moment, only be guessed at.

However, a significant number of young people have died after taking one tablet. In addition, substances mixed with Ecstasy may in themselves be harmful. As with any such drug, you cannot be sure exactly what you are getting.

Mr Kushlick is wrong if he is implying that young people are better off taking Ecstasy than drinking. His letter sounds as foolish as Brian Harvey, lead singer of East 17, did on radio and Noel Gallagher's latest remarks (reports, January 17 and 31).

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM THOMSON,
15 Cannon Street,
Eccles, Manchester.
January 31.

Extracting money

From Mr Nicholas Beale

Sir, We have endured for years stories of ludicrously overpaid people "earning" whatever they happened to be paid by their luckless or gormless employers; but with the report (January 21) of the disgraced dentist who "earned" £1 million in four years through submitting hugely inflated fee claims to the NHS, enough is enough.

Surely the whole point about the case is that he did not *earn* the money.

Yours faithfully,
N. C. L. BEALE,
1 Hay Hill, Berkeley Square, W1.
January 21.

Kosher fast food

From Mr Michael Ross

Sir, Burger King's plans to open a branch that may sell kosher fast food on the site of the old Bloom's restaurant in Whitechapel, east London (report, January 27), seem to be based on a fundamental misconception.

People did not beat a path to Bloom's door because it was necessarily kosher, but because it was typically Jewish; and I suspect that most of us would rather have an unkosher salt-beef sandwich than a kosher burger any day of the week — if that indeed is what Burger King has in mind. It would therefore seem as pointless to "kosherise" a hamburger as to give George Bush a barmitzvah. Neither will ever be Jewish.

Finally, what of the legendary indifference of Bloom's waiters? How do Burger King plan to replicate that? With "Have a nice day"? God forbid.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROSS,
St Christopher's House,
St Christopher's Place, W1.
January 30.

Dash it all

From Dr W. E. Griffiths

Sir, In medical terminology SOS (letters, January 29) has a meaning less urgent than in the Morse code. Advising a patient to return SOS indicates *si opus sit*, "if there be a need".

Ending a consultation in this way is favoured by our lawyers, and is known in contemporary GP jargon as "safetynetting".

Yours cautiously,
WILLIAM GRIFFITHS,
37 Paradise Road, Richmond, Surrey.

Highland millennium

From Dr Ian Richardson

Sir, Mrs Virginia Bottomley (letter, January 28; see also letters, February 1) obviously feels considerable satisfaction at what has been achieved by the Millennium Fund "supporting lottery projects and strengthening communities around the country". Yet I have an uneasy feeling that the fund, although awash with money, is being misdirected and failing to achieve its full potential.

The Millennium Forest Fund is underfunded and, while it is not too difficult for communities to acquire areas of amenity forest, it is totally impossible to fund the type of forest which provides employment and gives rural and highland communities a stake in their future.

The sum of £1.7 million would give this small community in the central Highlands control and ownership of its local Forestry Commission-managed forest, providing work for generations to come and a core activity for local regeneration. This forest once maintained more than 30 families, latterly reduced to nil.

Millennium money may not be used to acquire state-owned land or forests. Yet the Forestry Commission, with two million acres, is the largest landowner in the Highlands and is the one most likely to have land for sale.

Art, theatres, church bells all have their place: but the sustaining and regeneration of highland and rural communities represents an ideal perfectly capable of realisation.

Yours sincerely,
I. RICHARDSON
(Interim secretary),
Laggan Forestry Initative,
Laggan Community Office, Laggan,
By Newtonmore, Inverness-shire.
January 29.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Wide of the mark

From Mr Alec J. Whiteman

Sir, I read with some amusement Dr Robert Barnard's letter (January 25) regarding the doubtful efficiency of the Conservative Party's appeal for funds.

In February 1992, prior to the last election, my mother received a warm written invitation to join the Bexhill and Battle Young Conservatives, "if you enjoy a party". She was then in her 96th year.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC J. WHITEMAN,
Claremont, Ticehurst, East Sussex.
January 30.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 1: The Princess Royal this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Hong Kong. Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
February 2: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Reverend Canon George Hill preached the Sermon.

Mr John Hart, Mr Keith Hodson and Mr Richard Lines were received by The Queen when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Birthdays today

Mr G.A. Allan, former Headmaster, Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, 61; Sir Anthony Alment, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 75; the Earl of Antrim, 62; Miss Gillian Ayres, painter, 67; Mr Val Doonican, singer, 68; Mr William Frankel, former Editor and chairman, *Jewish Chronicle*, 80; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, 72; the Earl of Hardwicke, 26; Mr Gavin Henderson, Principal, Trinity College of Music, 49; Sir Edgar Keatinge, former MP and company director, 92; Mr James A. Michener, author, 90; Baroness O'Cathain, 59; Miss Elaine Padmore, opera singer and director, 50; Brigadier the Hon Dame Mary Pihl, former director, WRAC, 81; Mr Glen Tetley, choreographer, 71; Mr Frankie Vaughan, singer, 69.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Hamburg, 1809; Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, Prime Minister 1885-86, 1886-92 and 1895-1902, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, 1830; Gertrude Stein, novelist and critic, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, 1874; Alvar Aalto, architect and designer, Kuortane, Finland, 1898; Luigi Dallapiccola, composer, Pisino, Austria, 1904.

DEATHS: Richard (Beau) Nash, master of ceremonies at Bath, Bath, 1761; George Crabbe, poet, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1832; Sir Henry Maine, jurist and historian, Cannes, 1888; Sir Morell Mackenzie, physician, London, 1892; Edward Pickering, astronomer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1919; Woodrow Wilson, 28th American President 1913-21, Nobel Peace laureate 1920, Washington, 1924; Boris Karloff, actor, Midhurst, West Sussex, 1969.

President Woodrow Wilson presided at the first meeting of the League of Nations in Paris, 1919.

Kelly College

The Governors of Kelly College are pleased to announce the launch of their Admiral Kelly Millennium Appeal on this the 212th anniversary of his birth. A formal reception will be held at the Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London SW1 on Friday, February 21, from 6.45pm. All those who would like details of the Appeal or this reception should contact the Chairman of the Appeal on telephone/fax 01822 612050 or e-mail Kelly_college@compuserve.com.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board, will visit their headquarters and attend a management committee meeting at 84 George Street, Edinburgh, at 12.25.

Nature notes

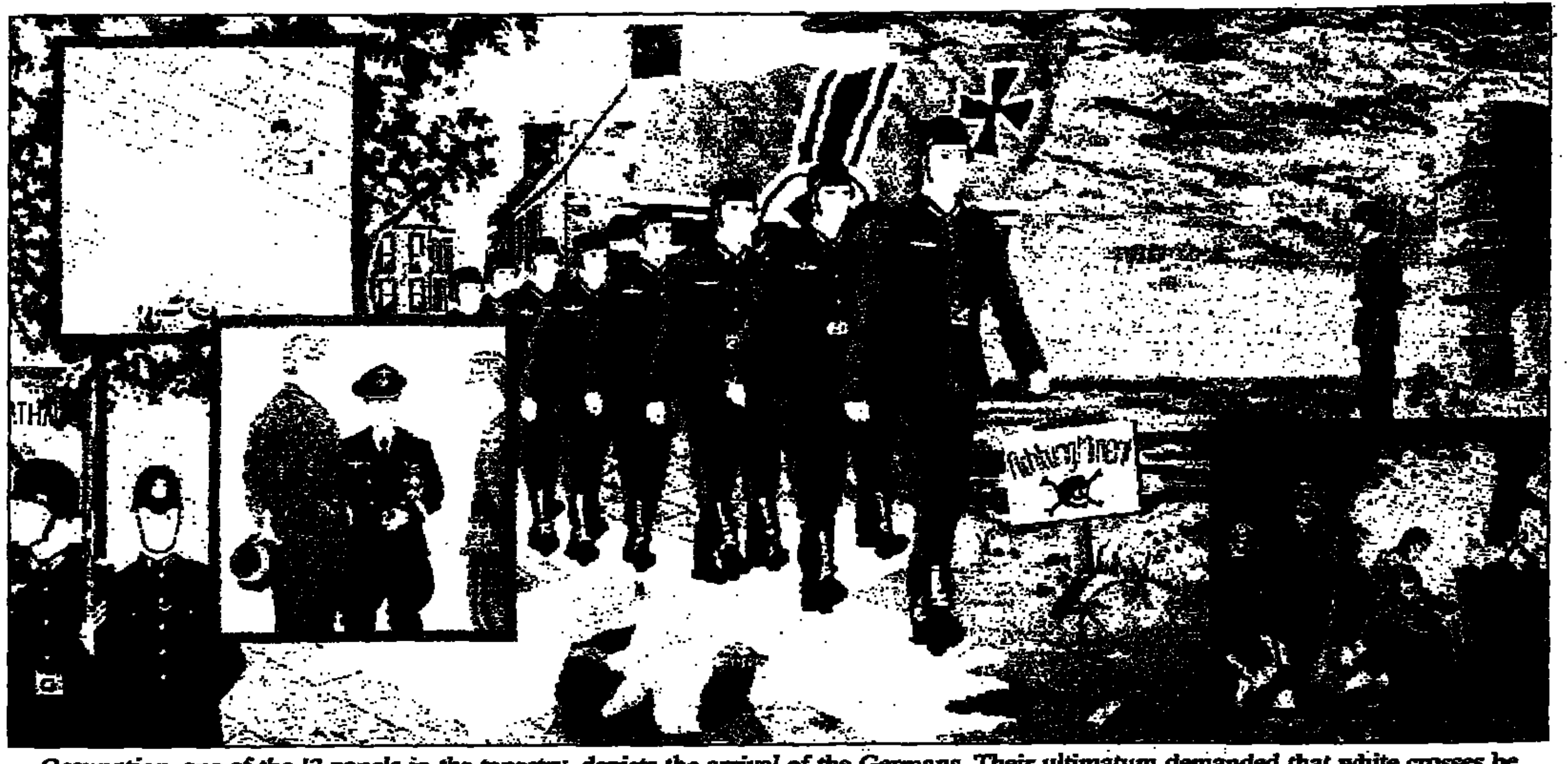
MORE birds are starting to sing. House sparrows are stringing their chirping calls together in phrases with a trace of rhythm to them. The first chaffinches are singing loudly in orchard trees. In the fields, corn buntings sing with wide-open beaks on the top of hedges: they produce a brief, jangling outburst like a bunch of keys being shaken.

The skylark

Above the buntings' heads, skylarks are singing regularly, often flying so high that they become almost invisible; they are also skirmishing with each other in the air. By rocky streams, dippers are singing their rippling songs from jutting stonework or overhanging branches: they are early breeders, and some will have built their nests under bridges and behind waterfalls by the end of the month.

In damp places, winter heliotropes, whose ancestors escaped from gardens, are opening their lilac-coloured flowers, which have the scent of vanilla. On many sallow bushes there are chains of silver catkins along the sides of the red twigs.

Leaves of other spring flowers are coming through steadily: the toothed leaves of bulbous buttercup grow in broad patches on roadsides, the fern-like foliage of cow parsley is getting thick along field-paths, and the shiny leaves of lesser celandine crowd along the edge of ditches. DJM


Occupation, one of the 12 panels in the tapestry, depicts the arrival of the Germans. Their ultimatum demanded that white crosses be painted in prominent places; the Attorney-General is shown meeting the invaders: slave labour, right, built many of the fortifications

Jersey's tapestry chronicle of occupation wins award

By Marcus Binney

A MODERN-DAY Bayeux Tapestry, portraying the hardships of the German occupation of Jersey in the Second World War, has won one of Britain's most respected museum awards.

The tapestry, woven by 228 embroiderers, many of whom endured the five-year occupation, is based not only on the first-hand memories of islanders, but on film footage shot secretly under the noses of the Germans and further film captured by the Americans in 1945.

Viscountess Cobham, making the award for the Society for the Interpretation of Britain's Heritage, said: "Jersey has won for three reasons: creative community involvement, imaginative interpretation and an enterprising conversion of an old dockside warehouse [for a Tapestry Gallery]."

The tapestry commemorates some of the most poignant moments of the occupation, including the betrayal and arrest of Canon Clifford Cohu, rector of the parish of St Saviour, who was sent to a concentration camp where he died for passing on BBC news bulletins to his parishioners, and the hardships of 7,000 slave workers brought to the island, mainly Russians and Spanish republicans.

With just 28,000 islanders and an occupying force of nearly 13,000, active resistance would have been foolhardy, but numerous acts of passive resistance and defiance are recorded. These include the mason who inserted a V sign when relaying the flagstones in the Royal Square in St Helier where the Germans paraded.

As in the Bayeux Tapestry, on which it is modelled, many details of everyday life are recorded — homesick German troops giving sweets and lorry rides to small children and the housewife who hid a piglet in bed when the Germans came foraging.

As the tide of the war turned, the Germans confiscated all cameras and wirelesses, but many islanders listened to BBC bulletins on crystal sets. Olive Thompson, whose father had a photography shop, kept cine film hidden in a biscuit tin in the garden and filmed German troops frog-marching through the town from behind the curtain, keeping just enough film to record the liberation by British tommies.

Each of the 12 tapestry panels measures 72in by 34in. Wayne Audrain, who designed the tapestry, said: "Though hundreds of people worked on it, it looks as if it was done by the same 12 hands."

☐ A 100ft-long tapestry embroidered by 70 women to commemorate the last invasion of the British mainland was completed yesterday. The tapestry records the doomed landing on February 22, 1797, of 1,400 troops from four French warships at Carreg Wastad, near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire.

Memorial services

Dr Bernard Rose

A memorial service for Dr Bernard Rose, organist and former Informator Choristarum of Magdalen College, Oxford, was held on Saturday in Magdalen College Chapel.

The Rev Dr M.J. Piret, Dean of Divinity at the college, officiated. The Right Rev Paul Burrough read the lesson and the Rev Ronald Lloyd read from the works of Nadia Boulanger.

Sir David Lumsden gave an address and the Right Rev Peter Walker pronounced the blessing.

During the service the college choir, conducted by Mr Bill Ives, Informator Choristarum, with Mr Matthew Martin, organ, sang Bernard Rose's music.

Sir John May

A Memorial Service for Sir John May will be held in Temple Church on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 5pm.

Roy Bennett

A memorial service for Roy Grissell Bennett, CMG, TD, will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 2.30pm.

Cabbage pots carry rich odour of history

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

THE smell of cabbage is one of the most persistent odours known to humanity, particularly for those who have spent any time at boarding school or in hospital. Now at least part of the secret has been revealed: wax from the leaves soaks into cooking vessels, and survives for nearly a thousand years.

Cooking pots from a Saxon and medieval site at Raunds, Northamptonshire, were shown to have fatty nonacosane lipids absorbed into their fabric, identical with those in leaves from the *Brassica* or cabbage family. Dr Richard Evershed and his colleagues at Bristol University, who have been working on the identification of ancient foodstuffs, had copies made of the vessels, and used them to cook cabbage.

Ten successive boilings of batches of spring cabbage were carried out in the Bristol laboratory, with the pots allowed to dry out for a day or so between cookings. Lipids deriving from the epicuticular wax of the leaves were then extracted from ground-up samples of the vessel fabric and analysed.

Different batches of cabbage leaves yielded varying strengths of lipid; sufficient was absorbed during the first cooking to seal the porous surface and reduce boiling time, however, and was detectable. The amount built up over time, though length of use cannot be known.

"Obviously, archaeological vessels will have been used many hundreds of times," the investigators say.

Source: *Journal of Archaeological Science* 24: 1-7.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
SURGEON COMMODORE: N A Baldock - staff of Cincfleet 21/2/97.
COMMANDER: D I Boggust - Intrepid in Cmd 11/7/97; A B Hoskins - DG Ships Bath 18/4/97; E A McNair DGICS 2/5/97; I R Munro - DG Ships Bath 8/8/97.
SURGEON COMMANDER (D): J D Victor - Nelson 7/2/97.
MAJOR: S J Hughes - *DNLP* Bath 13/6/97.

Retirements
COMMANDER: S W Dowie - 26/4/97
LOCAL MAJOR: S Haselock - 1/3/97.

Royal Air Force
WING COMMANDER: P D Legg - MOD, 24.1.97. P M O'Meeghan - MOD, 27.1.97. J W Pierce - MOD, 27.1.97. K P Sherdley - HQ Nato, 27.1.97. A J Pollock - RAF Brize Norton, 3.2.97.

Royal Navy and Royal Marines scholarship and reserved place competition
The following have been successful in the 1996 Scholarship and Reserved Place Competition for entry to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Royal Navy
Awarded two-year scholarships
Full Career Commission — engineering sponsorship scheme: M P Norris, Budmouth Technology College, Weymouth; M M L Parkinson, All Hallows S, Wells Cathedral S; N E Mullins, Somervale S, Bath; D J Joyce, Borden Grammar S; D R Gosden, Wells Cathedral S; B A Kadinopoulos, Christ College, Brecon.
Medium Career Commission — engineering sponsorship scheme: M E Reynolds, Solefields S (Preparatory S); Tonbridge S.
Full Career Commission — warfare T P Davies, Mount House S, Tavistock; Sherborne S.
Medium Career Commission — warfare
J J Walker, Royal Grammar S, Newcastle.
Short Career Commission — warfare
M J Samways, Queens College, Wellington S.

Awarded one-year scholarships
Full Career Commission — engineering sponsorship scheme
M P Gibbs, Dartford Grammar S. I H Wyllie, Dulwich College.
Medium Career Commission — engineering sponsorship scheme
M C Abbotts, The King's S, Macclesfield.
Full Career Commission — warfare G E Carpenter, Brighton College.
Medium Career Commission — warfare
K A Glimm, Strathallan School.

Royal Marines
Awarded two-year scholarship
Full Career Commission — direct entry
M C Williams, Newlands FCJ Comp; Lancaster Royal Grammar S.
Awarded one-year scholarship
Full Career Commission — direct entry
S Heard, Royal Grammar S, Guildford.
Awarded reserved places
J A E Lewis, Moffats S, Royal Hospital S; D J May, Dr Challoner's Grammar S; Wycliffe College.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.C.V. Carr-Jones and Miss Z.A. Tomkins
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Carr-Jones, of Bosham, West Sussex, and Zoë, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Tomkins, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr A.M. Hunt and Miss E.A.K. Thorogood
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Hunt, of Sutton, Surrey, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr Peter Thorogood and the late Mrs Suzanne Thorogood, and stepdaughter of Mrs Léonie Thorogood, of Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire.

Mr A.J. Lawson-Dick and Miss A.U.B. Strömberg
The engagement is announced between Alasdair, younger son of Mr and Mrs Charles Lawson-Dick, of Owston, Leicestershire, and Anna, eldest daughter of Professor and Mrs Lennart Strömberg, of Saltsjöbaden, Sweden.

Mr M.C.J. Porter-Wright and Miss A.K. Hobbs
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Major and Mrs John Porter-Wright, of Swallowcliffe, Wiltshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hobbs, of Dearham, Cumbria.

Mr S.D. Thompson-Whiteside and Miss J.N. Hardie
The engagement is announced between Scott Derek, younger son of Mrs Betty Thompson-Whiteside, of Portchester, Hampshire, and the late Mr Terence Thompson-Whiteside, and Jennifer Nighean, only daughter of Mr Stuart Hardie, of St Pierre du Bois, Guernsey, and Mrs Margaret Clarke, of Achnamara, Argyll and Fleurance, France.

Mr D. Tye and Miss T. Millest
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. Tye, of Tring, Hertfordshire, and Tamzin, daughter of Mr Peter Millest and Mrs Vivienne Millest, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

Marriages

Mr A.R. Pearson and Miss H.J. Manktelow
The marriage took place on Saturday in Chichester Cathedral of Mr Alistair Pearson, son of Mr R.J. Pearson, of Alresford, and of Mrs M.H. Pearson, of Winchester, to Miss Helen Manktelow, eldest daughter of the Right Rev Michael and Mrs Manktelow, of Chichester. The Bishop of Chichester, the Dean of Chichester and Canon Roger Job officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Katharine Manktelow and Miss Elizabeth Manktelow. Mr Mark Adams was best man. A reception was held at the Bishop's Palace and the honeymoon will be spent in Austria.

Mr J.C.J. Pegler and Dr S.L.P. du B. Davidson
The marriage took place quietly in Chelsea, on February 1, 1997, between Mr Julian Pegler and Dr Serena Davidson.

University news

Oxford, Trinity College
Sir John Burgh, President of Trinity College 1987-96, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the college.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Though I am compassed about by trouble, you preserve my life, putting forth your power against the rage of my enemies and with your right hand you save me. Psalm 138 : 7

BIRTHS

FIDLER - On 30th January in The Hague, to Bente (née van Wagtendonk) and Mark, an exquisite daughter, Frair Francine.

HENDERSON - On January 29th, 1997 to Sophie (nee Wingfield Digby) and Guy, a son (Edward William), a brother for Robbie, Poppy and Minna.

MOTLEY - On January 29th, to Naomi (née Rugg-Gunn) and Michael, a daughter, Elizabeth Constance Mary, a sister for Hal.

ROBERTS - On 21st January at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor, to Audra and Philip, a son, Dafydd Lewis, a brother for Ffion.

STEWART-WILSON - On January 31st, to Tamara (née Callaghan) and Aubyn, a son, Dougal George Oliver, a brother for Cecilia.

STRANG - On January 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria (née Gibson) and Richard, a son, Edward William George, a brother for Emily and Serena.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

McLEAN:MURPHY - John David Kilner to Dymphna, at Holy Name Church, Birkenhead, 3rd February 1947. Now at 74 Chart Lane, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7EA.

DEATHS

BECK - David, suddenly on 30th January 1997. Beloved husband of Angela and brother of Ray. Funeral at St Lukes Church, Matfield on Thursday 13th February at 2.30 pm. Followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations to Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells or the Brooke Hospital for Horses, Cairo.

BOSSERMAN - Joseph Norwood (Joe) died suddenly of a heart attack on Monday January 27th while travelling in France. Messages c/o School of Architecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

LAWDER - Maureen on January 31, 1997, suddenly but very peacefully, aged 83 years. Funeral service on Thursday, February 6, 1997 at Christ Church, Henton at 3.30pm followed by private family cremation. Donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan.

LLOYD - Lady Ruth, beloved wife of the late Lord Lloyd of Hampstead and devoted mother and grandmother to Naomi and Corinne and grandchildren Katie and Ben, passed away after a short illness on 29th January. Cremation to take place on Monday 3rd February at the West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium at 2 pm.

MAWLE - Dorothy Evelyn passed peacefully away on Monday January 27th, widow of Ben, much loved mother of William, Geoffrey, Robert, grandmother of Jane, Diana, Jim, Marie-Clare, Richard, great grandmother of Callum. Funeral service at St Mary's Ashbury, February 6th, 1.30pm. Flowers please to AE Baker & Sons, 5 Park Road, Faringdon.

MELLALIEU - Gordon Eric, Preston Solicitor suddenly, following a minor operation. Dearly loved husband of Judy, father of Keith, Michael, and the late Yvonne. Funeral Service at Goosnargh Parish Church, near Preston, Monday February 10th at 12 noon. No flowers please. Enquiries to Messrs H Whalley & Sons, Rippon Street, Preston, Lancs. Tel: 01772 254936.

PLATTEN - Angela Florence M.Phil, M.Ed. Darling wife of Don, loving mother of Henry. On January 29th peacefully with her family around her in hospital at Chester. Will be greatly missed and eternally loved by all those to whom she was such a great inspiration. A Thanksgiving Service for her life will be held on Friday 7th February. Enquiries to O.W. Ellis Funeral Directors (01244) 532218.

RICHARDSON - On January 31st 1997, peacefully at the Wilton, Hindhead, Edmund Beresford (Ned), aged 81 years. Formerly resident of Elstead. Funeral service at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday February 6th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Injured Jockeys Fund c/o Thorne-Leggett, Petersfield Road, Whitehill, Bordon, GU35 9AR.

RITBLAT - Miriam. On January 31st at home asleep in her 90th year. Funeral Tuesday pm, January 4th, Edgwarebury. Enquiries 0171 935 2111.

SCOTT - Lt. Col. Harold Eldon, peacefully at Harbour Hospital, Poole on January 29th, 1997 aged 89 years. Dearly beloved husband of the late Daphne and adored father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service in the Parish Church of St James, Kingston, Wareham, Dorset on Friday 7th February at 2.30 pm. Floral tributes or donations to be divided between the, 'Royal British Legion' and, 'The British Heart Foundation', may be sent to Albert Marsh (Funeral Directors) Ltd, St Michaels Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4QU. Tel: 01929-552107.

TISDALL - Hans on 31st January 1997, peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Isabel and father of Gisella and Angela. Funeral private. Service of Thanksgiving on March 7th at 11.00 am in Chelsea Old Church, London SW3.

VNOUCEK - Jindrich (Hank) Flt Lt. RAF (Rtd) Colonel Czech Airforce at home on 29th January 1997 aged 82 years. Husband of Hana, father of Annabel and Angela, Grandfather of Alex, brother, Uncle, Great Uncle, and Great Great Uncle. Funeral at The Cathedral, Town Walls, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday February 18th at 1.45pm followed by cremation at Shrewsbury Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations to The RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1N 4AR. Enquiries to Frank Painter & Sons Tel: 01743 362024

WOODFORDE - John Edward Flooks. On 29th January at home aged 71. Much loved father of Catherine, Oliver and Sophie. Thanksgiving service on 7th February at All Saints' Church, Lydd, at 3.30 pm. Flowers or donations payable to National Missing Persons Helpline c/o Romney Marsh F.S. George Lane, New Romney, TN28 8BS.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

COVEN - In cherished memory of Eda, very loved Mamma, on her birthday. Frank and Edwina.

HOLMES - Marie died 3rd February 1994. In loving memory of my darling wife. Geo.

NAIPAUL - Patricia Ann died at 63 in Salterton, Wiltshire, after a long illness, 1996.

BIRTHDAYS

CJ - You grow old, you grow old, you shall wear the bottoms of your trousers rolled. Here's lookin' at you kid...Love Kate.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Sara, Love always Sam xxx.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Make it a very happy birthday for someone special — announce it in the Times! Call 0171 481 1982

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE TIMES

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS
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Before planning your own holidays this year, please spare more than a thought for those children who without your help will never get away at all.
Donations urgently needed by
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OBITUARIES

MOLLIE PANTER-DOWNES

Mollie Panter-Downes, writer, died on January 22 aged 90. She was born on *August 25, 1906*.

Mollie Panter-Downes created something of a sensation when she published her first novel at the age of 16. She was to write and publish four more, three of which she eventually disowned along with that precocious debut, while her other books included an evocative account of the British in India, and a lively study of the later years of the poet Swinburne. But it is as the long-serving London correspondent of the *New Yorker* that she will be best remembered. For almost half a century, from the day war was declared in 1939 until her retirement at the age of 81, she provided the American magazine's readers with a shrewd, observant and witty picture of English life.

In her regular "Letter from London" she might cover anything from a state funeral to a Covent Garden first night, a Cabinet reshuffle to a suffocating smog; the subjects of her "Profile" pieces ranged from E.M. Forster to Sir Stafford Cripps; as a "Reporter at Large" she could find herself in Belfast or Ceylon, Margate or Gibraltar, Llandudno or Rome. Her weekly wartime dispatches from Britain, republished in book form in 1972, are of enduring interest.

Mollie Patricia Panter-Downes was the only child of Major Edward Panter-Downes of the Royal Irish Regiment, who was killed at the Battle of Mons when she was eight. Living in reduced circumstances with her mother in Sussex after her father's death, she read widely and at the age of 16 wrote *The Shoreless Sea*, her first novel; it was published in 1923.

The author herself later thought her first effort a "terrible book" and expressed relief that it was out of print. But the contemporary reception was positive and within 18 months *The Shoreless Sea* had been reprinted eight times. Reviewing this tale of "loves and sufferings and temptations", the *Times* critic admired the author's "maturity of style" and commented that "there is scarcely a moment at which the atmosphere of the story seems real; and yet it is nowhere essentially untrue". Without biographical information, "one would have assumed this book to be the product of a fairly practised writer".

A practised writer Mollie Panter-Downes soon became. She published articles and short stories in magazines, and three more novels, of which she later claimed not even to have kept copies. In 1927 she married Clare Robinson and made her home in a 16th-century house near Haslemere in Surrey, where she remained for the rest of her life. When she came to write her London letters for the *New Yorker*, she always felt it was an advantage to be based outside the capital. "I write from a little distance," she explained.

More prosaically, from 1939 to 1945, it was her home's proximity to the Portsmouth railway line (kept open for the Navy throughout the war) that enabled her to do some of her best work. For one thing, it meant that she was able to get to and from her London base in the Lansdowne Club, where she gathered the material for her weekly 1,500 words. Then, having written the column at home, it could "in the most extraordinary Heath-Robinson sort of way, be transported by car or bicycle through the blackout to the guard on a London-bound train, where it would be met by a Western Union messenger who cabled it to New York".

Panter-Downes had herself arrived at the *New Yorker* by a fairly unorthodox route. The magazine's Paris correspondent, Janet Flanner, who also covered London, happened to be in America when war broke out and so found herself unable to return to Europe. Panter-Downes had already contributed a piece to the magazine on Jewish refugees in London in 1937, and on the strength of it was offered the job, her name being "picked out with a pin" by the Editor, Harold Ross, or so she modestly liked to relate. Her initial impulse was to turn the job down, because her house was about to be filled with evacuees. Her husband persuaded her to reconsider.

Her first "Letter from London" appeared on the day war was declared. She wrote once a week until 1945. Relaxed, readable, wide-ranging and full of telling detail, her dispatches are of lasting worth precisely *because* they deal with the ephemeral things that most observers might overlook. As she herself later suggested: "If the pieces had a value, it's because I took note of the trivial, ordinary things that happened to ordinary people." She wrote of sheep-shearing in Hyde Park; of yellow detector paint applied to pillar boxes and intended to change colour in the event of a gas attack; of a shortage of ground almonds; of the Cotswold firm selling pheasants as "nature's sirens", able to detect approaching bombers long before the human ear.

The columns were reprinted in book form in 1972, as *London War Notes, 1939-45*. One reviewer thought the early dispatches "marred by a snobbish 'English lady' touch"; but as the "phoney blitz" gave way to "real bombs, V1s and V2s", they became "progressively more democratic" as the author paid weekly tribute to "the great, patient, courageous mass of British people". *The New York Times* remarked on the author's "stubborn egalitarianism".

The descriptive gifts and the talent for sharp yet sympathetic observation so effectively displayed in those wartime London letters were turned to fictional ends in the novel *One Fine Day*, which appeared in 1947. It examined the response of the English middle classes to the social and moral upheavals of the immediate postwar years. To Panter-Downes, the book was not just a cosy picture of village life, but a "hymn in praise of England still being there, a Te Deum at the wonder we won the war". The critic of *The Times Literary Supplement* feared that the author's "insistence that 'there will always be an England' rather swamps the characters who have to live there". Most of the reviews were positive, however, and *One Fine Day* was reissued by the publishers Virago in 1985 as part of their quest to rediscover neglected women writers.

Panter-Downes wrote no more novels, but continued to convey the essence of postwar England to the readers of the *New Yorker* in her Letters from London for nearly forty more years. She also ranged further afield. Two of her magazine commissions grew into books: *Ooty Preserved* (1967), a record of British life at a hill-station in India; and *At the Pines* (1971), an account of the curious *ménage* on Putney Hill in which Algernon Charles Swinburne was saved from a life of dissolution by the critic Theodore Watts-Dunton.

She retired as the *New Yorker's* London correspondent in 1987, having concentrated in later years on book reviewing rather than reporting. Her time with the magazine, she said, had been "one long, enthralling round".

She is survived by her husband and their two daughters.

GODFREY BASELEY

Godfrey Baseley, creator of *The Archers*, died yesterday aged 92. He was born on October 2, 1904.

ONE summers day in 1949 the idea for *The Archers* was born. Godfrey Baseley, then head of BBC Radio farming programmes, called a meeting of Midlandshire farmers to see if they had any new ideas. "Why don't we put on a programme about country people and the country — a sort of *Dick Barton* without the violence?" one of them asked. Baseley was immediately attracted to the idea. A countryman himself, thickset and stocky with speedwell blue eyes and a voice "as warm and rough as a field scratching post", he set to work to create a programme which would both instruct and entertain: a gentle tale of country folk, of the world of farming, fetes and flower shows, untouched by urban decay.

Engaging Geoffrey Webb and Edward Mason — the writers of the all-action series, *Dick Barton* — he scripted some trial episodes of what was to become the longest running and best-loved radio series in Britain. The fictional county of Borsetshire and its rural village Ambridge were all inspired by Baseley's Worcestershire home. His house, Summerhill Farm in Hanbury, became a model for Brookfield, country seat of the Archer dynasty, and his neighbours, were they to look hard enough, would have found themselves reflected in his bucolic characters.

The Archers was first broadcast in pilot episodes in the Midlands in 1950. A year later it was properly launched, and before long it had replaced *Dick Barton* in the daily 6.45 slot where it still remains. Millions tuned in to follow the story of Dan and Doris Archer and their friends and neighbours. The programme became a link between town and country, bringing the thrill of recognition to rural dwellers and the smell of the farmyard into urban homes.

At first the programme had a tiny budget. The original actors were all amateurs. They kept their day jobs. Dan Archer worked as pottery designer, Doris Archer had a shop and Simon the farmhand worked in an employment exchange. They were paid two guineas per episode.

Baseley had a formidable reputation. He ruled with a rod of iron. When in 1955 the actress, Ysanne Churchman, who played the volatile Grace Archer, began to worry him and unsettle the other members of the cast he decided to get rid of her. She was killed off in a farmyard fire. Her demise made front page news.

But for more that 20 years *The Archers* remained more or less unchanged. It kept its basis as an educational programme — each episode full of hints and information for farmers, keeping them in touch with the latest developments — while continuing peacefully to entertain. Basely continued to preside over the programme until 1971 when, having been told that the serial had become "tired and weary" he stormed out of the BBC in a blaze of anger instead of the blaze of glory which he deserved. Malcolm Lynch, a city man born and bred, replaced him. And *The Archers* was injected with a new and racier vigour.

Baseley was never mollified. "I have watched the programme change for the worse over the years," he said. "*The Archers* I knew was very clean." The arrival of Vanessa Whitburn as the editor in 1991 exacerbated his discontent. Fresh from the grittier realism of *Brookside*, she scandalised fiercely traditional audiences with episodes of racism, armed robbery, abortion and homosexuality. "Country people don't do that kind of thing," Baseley complained. He was vociferous in his criticism when in 1993 the word "bloody" appeared for the first time in 11,000 episodes.

He himself retained his rural way of life to the end. After leaving the programme he wrote four books, including *The Archers: A Slice of My Life* which was published in 1971. In old age he could still be found riding his tricycle around the Worcstershire village where he lived.

Godfrey Baseley married Betty, who predeceased him eight years ago. He is survived by their two daughters.

NICHOLAS STACEY

Nicholas Stacey, corporate adviser, died in London on January 19 aged 76. He was born in Debrecen, Hungary, on December 5, 1920.

THE death of Nicholas Stacey came as a shock to his many friends, who almost regarded him as indestructible. His mother was 104 when she died last year (obituary, July 18), and Stacey often said that he was planning his life for the next twenty years.

He always worked hard to keep his friendships in good repair and, to this end, kept open house in London. His hospitality extended to occasional parties in New York, where he rounded up friends who might have escaped him for a year or two. He maintained an idiosyncratic directness of address and a desire to shock and even outrage, if only to enjoy the startled responses of acquaintances misled by his conventional appearance. He was generous with advice (which was sometimes gratuitous), and was accustomed to showering his circle of friends with articles and cuttings — he was an inevetërate writer of letters to *The Times* — which he considered would enlarge their views and expand their understanding.

Nicholas Anthony Howard Stacey was born and brought up in Debrecnin, where he attended the local Jesuit Gymnasium. In 1938, aged 17, he came to England, leaving his parents behind (his mother did not escape from Hungary until after the 1956 uprising). He enrolled at Birmingham University in the Faculty of Commerce in 1939, combining his academic studies with driving for a Civil Defence surgical unit.

Having worked in a factory for two years, he went on after the war to spend a year at the LSE before becoming assistant secretary of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants. His subsequent career in the financial world was informed by the two years he spent in the United States, 1951-52, as a Fulbright Scholar at the Columbia University Graduate Business School and (later) by his seven years' employment by the General Electric Company as economic and marketing adviser.

It was in this company that he first learnt about commercial mergers, which knowledge he put to good use when in 1962 he became a founder member of Chesham Amalgamations & Investments. He remained with this company for 22 years, dealing only with uncontested mergers and avoiding the gladiatorial battles between giants of industry, which often enriched shareholders and professional advisors but rarely resulted in increased production.

He was justly proud of his appointment to, and his seven years' membership of, the Fulbright Commission, where he pioneered corporate sponsorship and short-term awards for young industrialists to enable them to study technological advances in the United States. He also served on a number of government committees concerned with industry and small businesses.

He found time in his active life to support the arts. He was chairman of the trustees of the Society for the Promotion of New Music, and he helped to raise money for the Byam Shaw School of Art. He was a trustee of the Bankside Gallery and chairman of the council of the Divertimenti String Orchestra. He was also most supportive of his wife, Marianne, who was a talented flautist.

He wrote a number of technical works about mergers and marketing and in 1989 published *Living in an Alibi Society*, a treatise in which he roundly condemned the modern pracice of blaming others and avoiding responsibility for one's own actions. His later years were clouded by his losses as a Name at Lloyd's, but was never heard to complain about what was for him financial disaster. He worked tirelessly to pay off all his debts and held himself entirely responsible for his own misfortunes.

In 1954 he married his first wife, Gloria Cooklin, from whom he was divorced in 1986. In 1987 he married Marianne Ehrhardt. He is survived by both.

DR CLINTON MANSON-BAHR

Dr Clinton Manson-Bahr, consultant *physician in tropical* medicine, died on December 31 aged 85. He was born on May 5, 1911.

THE death of Clinton Manson-Bahr brings to an end a family tradition of tropical medicine reaching back to the foundation of the discipline. He was the grandson of Sir Patrick Manson (1844-1922), "the father of tropical medicine", and the son of Sir Philip Manson-Bahr (1881-1966), son-in-law of Sir Patrick and another authority on the subject. Clinton Manson-Bahr himself became a noted practitioner of the discipline pioneered by his forebears, as well as a valued source of information on all aspects of its history.

Philip Edmund Clinton Manson-Bahr was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge; his subsequent medical studies were undertaken at the (Royal) London Medical College. On completing his studies, he joined the Colonial Medical Service, serving initially in Tanzania from 1939 to 1940.

From 1940 to 1947, as a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he served as adviser to East African Command and worked as a medical specialist in the US.. Service as a specialist physician in Fiji from 1948 to 1953 was followed by a period as senior specialist in Kenya, 1953-62.

From 1962 until 1968, Manson-Bahr was Professor of Clinical Tropical Medicine at Tulane University in America. He then served as a World Health Organisation specialist adviser to the Burmese Government; before becoming senior lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a post he held until 1975 and which brought with it honorary status at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich. Between 1975 and 1982 he worked as consultant physician to the Overseas Development and Commonwealth Development Corporations.

Through his collaboration with the division of insect-borne diseases in Kenya, Manson-Bahr was largely responsible for preserving the "tropical medicine" tradition there, and assisted in the development of the University of Nairobi Medical School. He made important contributions to the study of trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), leishmaniasis and other zoonotic diseases, his international standing in these fields being recognised by the award of the Gaspar Vianna medal in Brazil in 1962.

Other studies involved the epidemiology of tanapox (a viral infection) distinct from smallpox) in Kenya, histoplasmosis in East African caves, marine typhus, plague, leptospirosis, hydatid disease, trichinosis and other zoonoses in Kenya. He edited (jointly) the 17th, 18th and 19th editions of *Manson's Tropical Diseases*, the standard textbook on the subject, which his grandfather and father had edited before him. In his later years, Clinton Manson-Bahr gave outstanding service to the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, of which he was successively honorary secretary, 1973-79, and vice-president, 1979-81, as well as serving for many years as a member of its editorial committee of transactions. In addition, he was the society's honorary archivist. He received the Manson Medal (the society's highest award) in 1995 and in the same year was made an honorary Fellow.

Up to his death he attended almost every council and ordinary meeting of the society, his comments and remarks invariably being pertinent and well-informed. A big man, with a loud, booming voice, he was in many respects a larger than life figure. But he was always a model of modesty. Fellows will retain memories of his splendid address of thanks to HRH the Princess Royal when she inaugurated the newly refurbished George Carmichael Low auditorium at the society's premises in Manson House, Portland Place, on the occasion in 1994 of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Patrick.

Clinton Manson-Bahr is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in Kenya in 1943, a son (also a medical practitioner, though not in the tropical field) and a daughter.

Church appointments

The Rev David Holt, Vicar, Bagshot: to be Vicar, Fleet (Guildford).

The Rev Napoleon John, Assistant Curate, Leyton, St Mary w St Edward and St Luke: to be Priest-in-charge, St Elisabeth, Becontree (Chelmsford).

The Rev Chris Jones, Vicar, St Matthew, Bootle: to be *also* Area Dean of Bootle (Liverpool).

The Rev Glynn Jones, NSM, Glendale group of parishes (Newcastle): to be Assistant Chaplain of HM Prison, Armley (Ripon).

The Rev Gillian King, Chaplain of Tolworth Hospital: to be Team Vicar, Hale Team Ministry w special responsibility for Badshot Lea (Guildford).

The Rev Clinton McGhie, formerly Rector, Kingston Parish Church, Kingston (Jamaica), who has permission to officiate in the diocese of Chelmsford: to be Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Highams Park (Chelmsford).

The Rev Peter Mackenzie, Rector, Canterbury St Martin and St Paul (Canterbury): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev Conal Mahony, Vicar, Hempnall Team Ministry: to be Rector, Hempnall Team Ministry (Norwich).

The Rev Paul Messenger, Vicar, Southwater: to be Rector, Sullington and Thakeham w Warminghurst (Chichester).

The Rev John Moore, Associate Priest (NSM), w special responsibility for Bunny w Bradmore: to be Priest-in-charge (NSM), Bunny w Bradmore (Southwell).

The Rev Anesia Nascimento, Partner in Mission, Grassroots Programme, Luton (St Albans): to be Assistant Curate, Dinnington (Sheffield).

The Rev Barry Naylor, Vicar, St John's, East Dulwich (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, Blythburgh w Reydon, and Wangford, Uggeshall and Sotherton, and Team Rector designate of the Blyth Coastal Team (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Andrew O'Brien, Vicar, Belton (Lincoln): to be Priest-in-charge, Melbourn and Meldreth (Ely).

The Rev Stephen Oram, Priest-in-charge St Anne, Brislington: to be Vicar, Cricklade w Latton (Bristol).

The Rev Martin Partridge, NSM, St Mary's, Wargrave: to be Team Vicar (NSM), Schorne Team Ministry, w responsibility for Quainton (Oxford).

The Rev Barbara Prowse, Curate, Kingsthorpe: to be Vicar, St James, Northampton (Peterborough).

The Rev Michael Raynor, Vicar, St Barnabas, Warrington: to be Vicar, St Andrew, Orford (Liverpool).

The Rev Mary Ridgewell, formerly Chaplain, Lee Abbey (Exeter): now Curate (NSM), Bradford Peverell, Stratton, Frampton and Sydling St Nicholas (Salisbury).

The Rev Theresa Scott, Assistant Curate (NSM), Drayton St Peter: to be *also* NSM Convenor for the Berkshire Archdeaconry (Oxford).

The Rev Hugh Searle, Vicar, Barton and Rector, Coton: to be Chairman of the Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility (Ely).

The Rev John Shorrock, permission to officiate in the East Bridge deanery (Canterbury): now Clergy Widows Officer for Canterbury archdeaconry, same diocese.

ON THIS DAY

February 3, 1916

Nine zeppelins crossed the English coast and dropped bombs on Midland towns and cities. Later, the number of casualties was amended to 70 killed and 113 injured.

STORIES OF THE RAID.

Wanton Slaughter of Civilians.

The War Office issued last night a further communication on the raid of Monday night. This states that the deaths now amount to 59 and the cases of injury to 101. We are able to publish today vivid accounts of the raid from our own Correspondents in different counties. These show how unsuspecting civilians — men, women, and children — were surprised by the aircraft and wantonly killed or savagely injured. The following is the War Office *communiqué*:—

The utterly inaccurate report in the Berlin official telegram of February 1, which purported to describe the effect of the German air raid on the night of January 31, affords further proof of the fact that the raiders were quite unable to ascertain their position or shape their course with any degree of accuracy. One church and a Congregational chapel were badly damaged and a parish room wrecked. Fourteen houses were damaged, and a great number damaged less seriously by doors, window frames etc. being blown out. Some damage, not very serious, was caused to railway property in two places; only two factories, neither being of military importance, and a brewery were badly damaged, and two or three other factories were damaged slightly. The total number of bombs dropped up to the present exceeds 300. Many of them fell in rural places where no damage was caused at all.

We are able to publish today reports from our own Correspondents in different counties. Telephoning from a certain portion of Staffordshire, a correspondent says:- The first bomb was dropped near a picture theatre, which was brilliantly illuminated. Inquests were held yesterday on the bodies of three men killed in Lincolnshire in the raid. The Coroner expressed his sympathy with the relatives and friends of the men who had lost their lives in this dastardly manner. To think that 50 bombs were dropped and only three lives lost was cause for congratulation. Markedly different was the account of the raid issued by the German official news agency: "England's industry, to a considerable extent, lies in ruins. Over England during the night there was a fierce and hard-fought battle, a devastating air battle fought on a front of many miles, and it was won by German airships."

Mr. Joseph Cowen of Stella Hall, Blaydon-on-Tyne, announces that he will present £1,000 to the crew of the first aircraft to bring down a German Zeppelin in the British Isles.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاعمال

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1997

NEWS

Tories set D-Day for poll decision

■ Tory strategists have earmarked February 22 as "D-Day" — the final date on which John Major can decide whether to go for a March election if the party faces a landslide defeat in the Wirral South by-election.

Allies of the Prime Minister who are heavily involved in the election planning have argued that he should be prepared to abandon the Wirral contest only days before it is due to take place and call an election for March 20 .... Page 1

Major and Blair join soccer campaign

■ The Football Association secured the support of John Major and Tony Blair in their battle with Germany to host the 2006 World Cup although it should have known that it was already a lost cause. Uefa, Europe's governing body, said it "had already committed itself to supporting Germany" .... Page 1

Veteran names

Churchill, Pitt the Elder and even Appius the Blind have been called in evidence to support moves to allow Oxford dons to go on participating in the university's affairs to the age of 75 .... Page 1

Threat to pound

Robin Cook Strongly hinted that Labour would join a European single currency when it became legal tender in shops on the Continent in 2002. It was a clear signal that Labour would be prepared to abolish the pound .... Page 2

Tragic celebration

A Briton who emigrated to start a new life in South Africa six months ago was murdered as he prepared to celebrate the news that he was to become a father .... Page 3

Space balloon

Two Britons are planning a televised voyage into space in the biggest hot-air balloon to be built .... Page 5

Housing millions

The Japanese-led consortium that bought the Armed Forces' married quarters housing last year is already grossing millions of pounds from the deal .... Page 7

Princess on TV

BBC Television is devoting a half-hour programme to the recent visit to Angola by Diana, Princess of Wales, when she campaigned against landmines .... Page 8

Starvation allegation

Hospitals are accused of leaving patients dangerously underfed in a report. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has been urged to investigate accusations that patients are starving .... Page 9

Pakistan choice

Pakistanis go to the polls today, for the fourth time in eight years, faced with a choice between two leaders with records for running corrupt governments ...... Page 10

Clinton contrition

More contrition flowed from the White House after the revelation that a convicted felon with alleged links to the Mafia sipped coffee with President Clinton .... Page 11

Peace progress

Israeli and Palestinian leaders said that they would resume full-scale negotiations on the implementation of peace agreements after a six-month breakdown in the Middle East peace process .... Page 12

Yeltsin in talks

President Yeltsin, seeking to convince the world of his return to health, held three hours of talks with President Chirac of France .... Page 13

Gibraltar defiance

Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, has vowed that his administration will not cede "even the tiniest fraction" of the colony's sovereignty to Madrid .... Page 14

Cats' victim sues for $12 million

■ A Broadway theatregoer is suing Lord Lloyd Webber for $12 million after she was selected by a *Cats* actor for some audience participation. Evelyn Amato, 31, filed a lawsuit claiming that she was attacked by David Hibbard, who was playing Rum Tum Tugger who, every night, selects an audience member and mimes romantic interest in her .... Page 3

BARRY BATCHELOR/PA

PC Phil Griffiths with a parakeet at Barry police station, South Wales, during an open day to seek the owners of 52 stolen cage birds

BUSINESS

Jobs paradox: A European Commission report forecasts that Britain will be the only EU state to meet the target of halving unemployment by the year 2000. But it suggests that labour market reforms should be reversed .... Page 48

Mutual mania: Abbey National, rebuffed suitor of Scottish Amicable, says it is prepared to raise its offer to its policyholders to forestall a rush of rivals lining up for an auction .... Page 48

Disconnection: Cable & Wireless is to abandon the alliance with Germany's Veba group set up to attack telephone markets .... Page 48

Fragile euro: Janet Bush finds that world business leaders reckon Europe's ambitions for monetary union are a laugh .... Page 46

ARTS

TV farewell: Like Jeremy Isaacs before him, Michael Grade will leave a gaping hole behind him at Channel 4. Melvyn Bragg on the achievements of the Channel 4 boss .... Page 18

Happy birthday: Nearly everyone in a packed Wigmore Hall stayed to the end of a six-hour musical marathon to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Schubert .... Page 18

Pop gossip: The grapevine has been quietly buzzing about them for months. Now the Eels play London .... Page 18

French favourite: Jeanne Moreau is a veteran of more than a hundred films. Now she is about to add another, *The Proprietor*, to her enormous credit list .... Page 19

FEATURES

Royal list: In the privileged world of royal godchildren, Diana, Princess of Wales, is the trophy godmother. Who are these children? How are they chosen? ...... Page 16

Changing role: Godparents have been a central part of the British family and social life for nearly 1,400 years and, surprisingly in a secular age, they remain an important part of many lives ...... Page 17

MIND AND MATTER

Solar storms: Solar activity is heading for a climax — to devastating effect .... Page 15

Nigel Hawkes: Honeybees have eyes that operate well by day but less efficiently at night. Yet many species fly by night. How do they do it? .... Page 15

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ SPICE ISLANDS
Passport to Indonesia: a 16-page report on travel in one the world's least known countries

■ ARTS
The National Gallery shows off the charms of the young Gainsborough

[illegible]

Football: Alan Shearer scored a hat-trick in the final 13 minutes of the game as Newcastle fought back from 3-1 down to earn a thrilling 4-3 victory over Leicester .... Page 25

England triumph: The achievement of four tries in the victory over Scotland should give England confidence for the remaining five nations matches .... Page 29

Rugby union: Ireland are eagerly awaiting the visit of England in two weeks after their remarkable victory over Wales .... Page 28

Racing: Danoli, the most popular horse in Ireland, jumped to the front of the Cheltenham Gold Cup betting with a thrilling victory over Jodami in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup .... Page 38

Cricket: David Lloyd, the England coach, chose to attack the scheduling of the fixture rather than his team's performance after the defeat by New Zealand A .... Page 27

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, lost to Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Croatian indoor championship in Zagreb when he controversially foot faulted in the final set tie-break .... Page 26

LOTTERY NUMBERS

12, 16, 20, 28, 36, 48. Bonus: 34. Nine people shared the jackpot, each winning £2,512,517; 34 won £101,401 for five numbers and the bonus; 2,172 won £992 for five numbers; 83,655 won £56 for four; 1,339,836 won £10 for three.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Six pairs of identical twins talk about their lives. *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond finds *Nostromo* half a disaster .... Page 47

OPINION

Stand by the Rock

Spain must take account of Gibraltar's wishes, as Britain does. If it cannot, it will not secure the Rock even by the next millennium .... Page 21

Constitutional clash

The electorate will face a choice that can be crudely summarised: no change (Tory); some change (Labour); or all change (Liberal Democrat) .... Page 21

Mystic mug

Will it only be a matter of time before balls spin on a daily basis with a matiné on Saturday for good *measure* .... Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES—MOGG

The overseas Chinese may be better at being British than the British. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are Anglo-Chinese cities; the people are largely Chinese, but the culture has been conditioned historically by the British connection . Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Despite occasional bursts of frustration, Mr Ashdown is remarkably resilient and believes there is an opportunity to be distinctive from Labour in view of what he sees as Gordon Brown's implausible caution on tax and public spending .... Page 20

OBITUARIES

Mollie Panter-Downes, writer; **Godfrey Baseley**, founder of *The Archers* .... Page 23

LETTERS

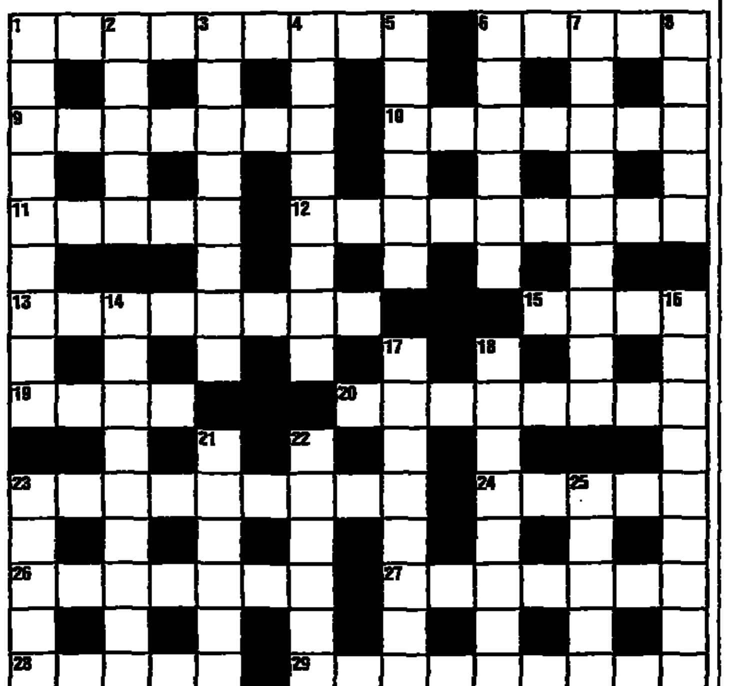
Bloody Sunday inquiry; new Royal Yacht; trauma counselling; mandatory sentences; promotion of drugs; UK steelmaking; kosher fast food .... Page 21

[illegible]

The Spanish Foreign Minister could not have chosen a worse moment to present his generous "co-sovereignty" formula on the future of Gibraltar. It would have been far better for Spain to have waited till the British elections were over before making this offer

— *El País*, Madrid

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,393



ACROSS

1 Redesigned flats suit musicians (9).
6 Bankruptcy — little credit remains (5).
9 Fall in support for golfing novice (7).
10 A superior assistant (7).
11 One Parisian the German is subordinate to (5).
12 Once rise's collapsed, this results? (9).
13 At home alone with good book that's really saucy! (8).
15 Only fair (4).
19 One has to reverse a little bit (4).
20 Infantry display put on for Wellington, perhaps (8).
23 Person drawing beer a little light in content (9).
24 Famous bowler out for a duck when excited? (5).
26 See star forming part of a mosaic (7).
27 Severe shortage of debtor with nothing (7).
28 If heard but not seen, advertisement will confuse (5).
29 Exchange rate more accurate for financial manager (9).

DOWN

1 Form of pasta – cooks cut it fine (9).
2 Trophy given? There's room for improvement in hospital (5).
3 A number of exercises one left out? Climbers depend on them (8).
4 Fleecing a woman over a piece of jewelry (8).
5 Poles at church showing pluck (6).
6 Food said to raise a smile (6).
7 Give credit for quality (9).
8 Rook and duck caught by another bird – or another (5).
14 It's dire as can be, made fun of (9).
16 He worries people in high places (9).
17 Food served in can (8).
18 Thoughtful bosses accepting financial liability (8).
21 Environmentally concerned English writer (6).
22 Despot's extremely testy harangue (6).
23 Ancient city, a favourite with the artist (5).
25 Listening to a prophet can be such a boring thing (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,392 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

AA INFORMATION

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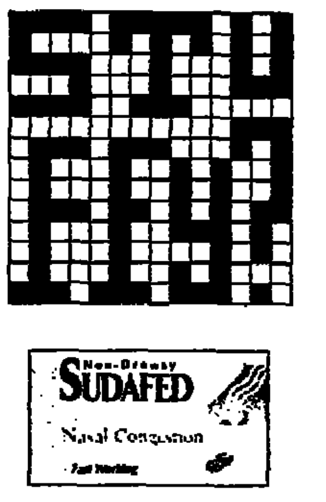
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Guernsey 11C (52F); lowest day max: Glascarnoch, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.24in; highest sunshine: Tenby, Pembrokeshire, and Isle of Man 7.8hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a chilly start with overnight mist and fog that will clear during the morning. Most places will have a dry day with the best of the sunshine appearing in the South East. Northern parts will turn cloudy with mainly light rain later.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain, which will be heavy at times, with snow over the higher hills. It will be windy with gales in the north and west.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, *E Midlands, E England, Central N*:** overnight mist or fog clearing, dry with sunny spells. Wind light and variable becoming moderate, southwesterly. Chilly, max 6C (43F).

☐ **Central S England, W Midlands, *Channel Isles*, SW England, S Wales:** overnight mist or fog clearing, then dry but rather cloudy at times. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Chilly, max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England:** *overnight mist or fog clearing, dry at* first, cloudier with rain later: Wind southwesterly, moderate increasing *fresh to strong. Max 6C* (43F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, *Aberdeen, Moray Firth*:** *dry at first*, mainly light rain later. Wind southwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central *Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll*, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** cloudy, rain, heavy at times with snow on the hills. Wind south to southwesterly, strong to gale, locally severe gale at times. Mild, max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook for Tuesday and *Wednesday*:** *drizzle* or *showers* in the North and West. Dry with sunshine elsewhere.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

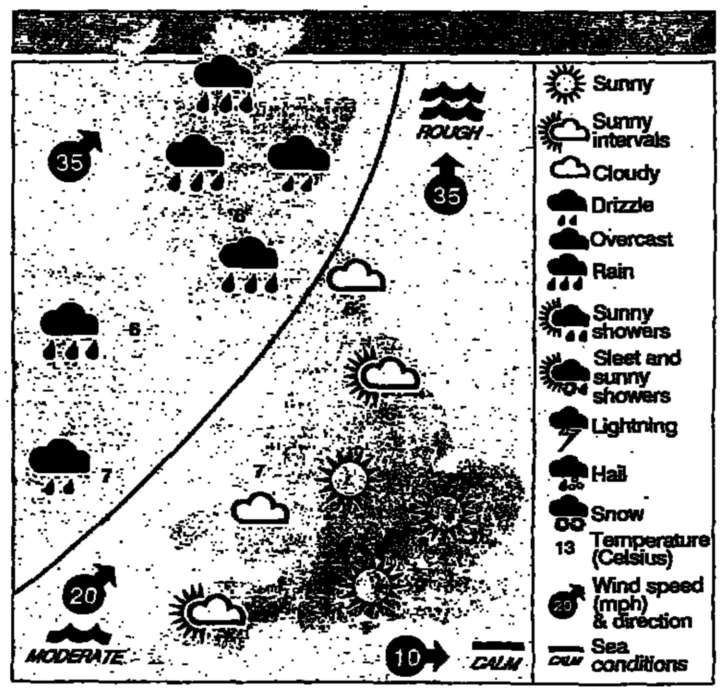
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.1	0.01	7	45	s
Anglesey	7.5	0.12	8	46	s
Aspatria	6.7	0.04	7	45	s
Aviemore	4.1	0.07	5	41	s
Belfast	7.5	0.01	7	45	s
Birmingham	3.7	0.01	8	46	c
Bognor R	-	0.01	7	45	fg
Bournem'th	1.5	0.01	9	48	b
Bristol	3.3	0.04	10	50	r
Buxton	4.8	0.12	5	41	s
Cardiff	5.1	0.04	9	48	s
Clacton	X				
Colwyn Bay	6.3	0.03	7	45	s
Cromer	0.5	0.01	7	45	b
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	0.5	-	7	45	c
Edinburgh	6.6	0.02	7	45	s
Eskdalemuir	5.3	0.15	6	43	h
Exmouth	3.1	0.03	9	48	s
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	6.1	0.04	6	43	s
Folkestone	-	0.01	7	45	c
Glasgow	X				
Guernsey	0.4	-	11	52	c
Hastings	1.0	0.01	8	46	b
Hayling I.	0.2	0.01	8	46	c
Herne Bay	0.8	0.01	8	46	du
Hove	-	X	6	43	du
Hunstanton	X	-	6	43	s
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	7.8	0.04	7	45	s
Jersey	0.4	0.02	8	46	fg
Kinloss	X				
Leeds	6.2	0.01	9	48	r
Lerwick	4.3	0.22	6	43	h
Leuchars	7.6	0.01	7	45	s
Littlehmptn	-	0.01	7	45	d
London	-	0.01	8	46	r
Lowestoft	-	0.02	6	43	d
Manchester	5.3	0.09	8	46	sh
Minehead	X				
Morecambe	6.9	0.06	7	45	s
Newcastle	5.6	-	8	46	s
Newquay	X				
Norwich	0.1	0.01	7	45	c
Oxford	2.5	0.02	8	46	r
Penzance	X	0.06	11	52	c
Poole	2.0	0.01	9	48	s
Prestatyn	X	0.12	7	45	s
Ross-o-wye	4.4	0.01	9	48	s
Sandown	0.3	-	8	46	b
Saunton Snd	6.5	0.18	1	34	s
Scarboro'	4.6	0.01	7	45	s
Shanklin	0.3	0.01	8	46	c
Shrewsbury	6.0	0.01	8	46	s
Southend	X				
Southport	6.9	0.04	7	45	s
Southsea	0.1	-	7	45	c
Stornoway	6.5	0.17	6	43	sh
Swanage	1.9	0.01	9	48	b
Teignmouth	3.7	0.01	10	50	s
Tenby	7.8	0.02	9	48	s
Tiree	6.5	0.04	7	45	sh
Torquay	3.4	0.02	11	52	s
Tynemouth	-	-	7	45	s
Ventnor	0.6	0.01	8	46	b
West-s-mare	4.2	0.04	9	48	s
Weymouth	2.7	0.02	9	48	b

ABROAD

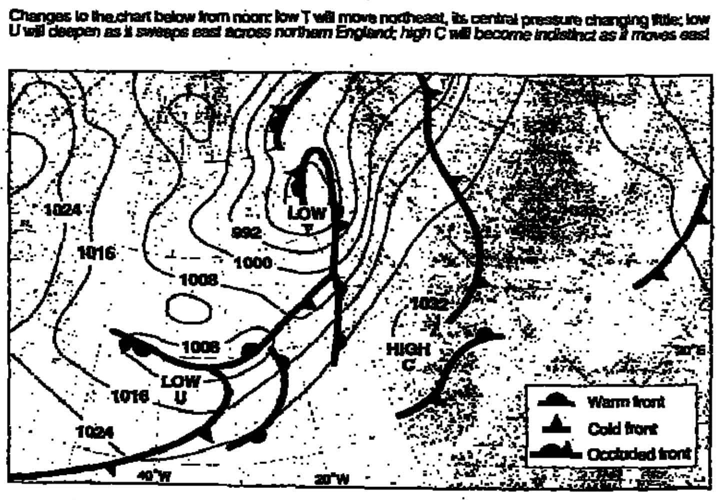
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	s	Corfu	12	54	s	Majorca	15	59	f	Rome	12	54	s
Akrotiri	12	54	c	C'phagn	2	36	s	Malaga	17	63	s	S Fr'sco	13	55	f
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dublin	6	43	c	Malta	15	59	f	S Paulo	29	84	f
Algiers	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	7	45	c	Melb'rne	22	72	s	Salzburg	3	37	s
Amst'dm	0	32	d	Faro	18	64	s	Mexico C	19	66	f	Santiago	20	68	s
Athens	8	46	c	Florence	11	52	s	Miami	21	70	s	Seoul	1	34	s
B Aires	34	93	s	Frankfurt	2	36	s	Milan	5	41	c	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	15	59	s	Funchal	20	68	c	Montreal	-4	25	fg	St'kholm	-1	30	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	0	32	c	Moscow	-15	5	s	Strasb'rg	-1	30	c
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Munich	1	34	s	Sydney	21	70	c
Barcelona	13	55	c	Helsinki	-3	27	s	*N Delhi*	15	59	f	*Tangier*	18	64	s
Beirut	14	57	f	Hong K	18	64	r	N York	9	48	s	Tel Aviv	14	57	s
Belgrade	0	32	s	Innsbrck	3	37	s	Nairobi	29	84	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	1	34	s	Istanbul	3	37	f	Naples	13	55	s	Tokyo	8	46	f
Bermuda	20	68	s	Jeddah	24	75	f	Nice	11	52	c	Toronto	0	32	s
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	27	81	s	Oslo	1	34	c	Tunis	15	59	f
Borde'x	7	45	c	L Angels	15	59	s	Paris	0	32	c	Valencia	16	61	s
Brussels	0	32	c	L Palmas	23	73	r	Peking	1	34	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	s
Budapst	1	34	s	Le Toquet	3	37	f	Perth	36	97	c	Venice	7	45	s
Cairo	17	63	f	Lisbon	16	61	f	Prague	-2	28	s	Vienna	-1	30	s
Cape Tn	24	75	f	Locarno	3	37	c	Reykjavik	-2	28	f	Warsaw	-1	30	c
Ch'church	X	X	X	Luxembg	-3	27	fg	Rhodes	12	54	f	Wash'ton	X	X	X
Chicago	1	34	f	Luxor	19	66	s	Rio de J	32	90	s	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Cologne	3	37	s	Madrid	7	45	f	Riyadh	17	63	s	Zurich	-1	30	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

[illegible]



Changes to the chart below from noon: low T will move northeast, its central pressure changing little; low U will deepen as it sweeps east across northern England; high C will become indistinct as it moves east



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	09.03	5.7	21.50	6.0
Aberdeen	09.18	3.6	21.52	3.6
Avonmouth	02.12	10.1	14.53	10.5
Belfast	06.36	2.9	19.12	3.1
Cardiff	01.58	9.5	14.39	9.8
Devonport	00.38	4.4	13.13	4.4
Dover	06.24	5.6	19.06	5.5
Dublin (N Wall)	07.32	3.4	20.10	3.8
Falmouth	00.09	4.2	12.44	4.2
Greenock	08.23	2.8	20.29	2.8
Harwich	07.09	3.3	19.53	3.4
Holyhead	06.12	4.6	18.45	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	01.30	7.2	14.18	7.3
Ilfracombe	01.11	7.0	13.47	7.2
King's Lynn	01.28	5.1	14.22	5.2

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	10.24	4.6	23.00	4.6
Liverpool	06.48	7.6	19.23	7.7
Lowestoft	05.00	2.2	17.48	2.2
Margate	07.19	3.9	20.08	4.0
Milford Haven	01.30	5.3	14.06	5.4
Newquay	00.31	5.4	13.06	5.5
Oban	01.52	3.0	14.03	3.1
Penzance	-	-	12.30	4.4
Portland	01.45	1.4	14.21	1.4
Portsmouth	06.56	4.0	19.41	3.9
Shoreham	06.35	5.0	19.19	5.0
Southampton	06.14	3.9	18.56	3.8
Swansea	01.26	7.4	14.15	7.5
Tees	11.41	4.3		
Walton-on-N	07.08	3.4	18.55	3.6

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

[illegible]

Sun rises: 7.36 am
Sun sets: 4.54 pm
Moon sets: 12.39 pm
Moon rises: 3.29 am

London 4.54 pm to 7.34 am
Bristol 5.04 pm to 7.44 am
Edinburgh 4.51 pm to 8.02 am
Manchester 4.58 pm to 7.49 am
Penzance 5.20 pm to 7.52 am

New moon February 7

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

TRY, TRY, TRY AGAIN
England tear Scotland apart
PAGE 29

Ireland stun Wales
PAGE 28

MANAGING WELL?
David Miller on the state of the national game
PAGE 33

FINDING HER FEET
Sally Gunnell back on track
PAGE 35

FOOL'S GOLD
Cheltenham favourite fails to shine
Report and racing cards
PAGE 38

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1997

THREE GOALS IN FINAL 13 MINUTES RESCUE NEWCASTLE

Shearer provides perfect finish

BY DAVID MADDOCK

HOW appropriate that this match was sponsored by the outrageous *Viz* magazine, because it was played to a script straight from the pages of their cartoon character, *Billy the Fish*. An Alan Shearer hat-trick in the final 13 minutes was comic-book stuff, winning a game for Newcastle United that they had seemingly thrown away.

Continuing the theme of recent Sunday afternoons, television viewers were treated to a contest of rare drama, a nerve-shredding excitement that only English football can provide. And, of course, it had to be that clean-cut *Boys' Own* hero, Shearer, who provided it.

Even by his standards, it was something special. Newcastle, so dominant and confident in the first half, had contrived, in that inimitable fashion of theirs, to allow spirited Leicester City back into the game to such an extent that the visitors had taken what seemed to be an unassailable lead.

Not so. Enter Shearer stage left with an expansive illustration of his myriad talents. It is without exaggeration to suggest that only he, of all the players currently operating in the FA Carling Premiership, could have pulled it off, because he has the rare ability to score goals from nothing.

"It has all been said about Alan before and, with my education, I couldn't add to it," Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, said afterwards. "I do think, though, I now have a better understanding of why Kevin Keegan was a bit grey and why Terry McDermott has gone white. If you take the last few minutes of this game and our last one, that's seven goals in 29 minutes — I just wish it was in the first 29 minutes."

But that wouldn't be Newcastle, would it. In the space of 90 minutes, they somehow won the game, lost it and won it all over again on a rollercoaster ride that drained the emotions of even the *blasé* St James' Park support.

It had all begun so promisingly — and calmly. Newcastle dominated the first half, took the lead and then, typically, failed to press home their advantage. The goal came after barely three minutes. Gillespie crossed from the right, Asprilla had a header blocked and Robbie Elliott dispatched the loose ball.

Ferdinand and Shearer spurned chances to extend the lead before what appeared a significant final five minutes of the first half, in which Newcastle were thwarted a further four times and Leicester suddenly began to believe they could take something from the game after all.

The equaliser came on 56 minutes. Lennon fed Parker, who slung the ball into the penalty area. With the home defence standing too deep, Matt Elliott, recently signed from Oxford United, headed powerfully into the net. Four minutes later, a long throw from the right again found Elliott and, even though his shot was blocked, Heskey was aware enough to allow Claridge a shooting opportunity from ten yards that he did not waste.

Heskey, 19, with the build to justify his nickname of "Bruno" and the pace of a bulky Linford Christie, has rich promise, illustrated when he left the Newcastle defence gasping with a break on 68 minutes, which he finished with a brute of a drive into the far corner.

Nevertheless, while Heskey has potential, Shearer is the finished article. One bookmaker had offered odds of 500-1 against the England forward scoring against every Premiership club this season and, with time ticking away, it appeared that his quest would finally be halted with only six clubs remaining. Then, after a Taylor foul on the substitute, Ginola, and with 13 minutes left, he picked up the ball, eyes gleaming, on the edge of the penalty area and struck a trademark free kick with genuine venom.

It was a good goal, but the equaliser was better, a turn and lash on the edge of the penalty box that was radar-guided through the legs of a defender and into the corner of the net. Thus, with seven minutes remaining, Newcastle were level; two minutes into stoppage time, the winner arrived. Lee crossed and there was Shearer to bundle the ball over the line from close range.

"Somebody will try to tell me it was a great game, I just know it," O'Neill groaned afterwards. On a technical level, maybe not, but great it certainly was.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-4-1-2): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert — K Gillespie (sub: D Ginola, 69min), D Batty, R Lee, R Elliott — F Asprilla (sub: L Clark, 87) — A Shearer, L Ferdinand.
LEICESTER CITY (5-3-2): K Keller — S Grayson, S Prior, M Elliott, J Watts — S Taylor (sub: J Lawrence, 83), G Parker, N Lennon — S Claridge, E Heskey.
Referee: M Reed.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 4
R Elliott 3min
A Shearer 77, 83, 90

LEICESTER CITY 3
M Elliott 55min
S Claridge 60
E Heskey 68

Attendance: 36,396

Shearer starts the celebrations after scoring Newcastle's dramatic winner at St James' Park yesterday. Photograph: Mark Thompson/Allsport

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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Television ponders end of an era in rugby

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

From a television point of view, the weekend posed only one serious question. Was this, or was this not, *Bill McLaren's last Calcutta* Cup? The answer is ... well, how long have you got?

If the question is refined to — was this McLaren's last Calcutta Cup live at Twickenham for the BBC? — the answer is yes. The one certainty amid the confusion that surrounds television coverage of the 1998 five nations' championship is BSkyB's multimillion pound contract that secures live coverage for England's matches played at Twickenham. So, unless McLaren follows the pragmatic precedent set by Murray Walker, who has followed grand prix motor racing to *ITV, that was indeed his last* live commentary of Scotland playing at headquarters.

However, nothing in rugby union is that simple. Early on in the negotiating process, BSkyB bowed to pressure *insisting that the championship* should remain available to those without satellite dishes. Therefore, the search is on for a terrestrial broadcaster willing to stump up enough money to buy secondary rights for delayed coverage of the matches at Twickenham.

The obvious candidate is the BBC, *which, in the past couple* of years, has provided outstanding coverage of the five nations' tournament and did its long-standing reputation as "the home of rugby" no harm at all by riding to the last-minute rescue of this season's Heineken Cup. With ITV apparently weary of rugby *(which is why the European* Cup needed rescuing) and Channel 4 uninterested, the corporation should have the field to itself. But it does not.

On Saturday, the most prominent hoardings at *Twickenham read "Give Me* 5". Was this straightforward advertising or an indication of more serious sporting intent by Channel 5, which finally goes on air next month? Well, let me just repeat the well known fact that David Elstein, the head of Channel 5, was until recently director of pro*gramming at BSkyB and that* his second sporting coup in his new job — after paying £1 million for the rights to England's World Cup qualifier in Poland in May — was signing up for the rugby union inter*national between Argentina* and England in Buenos Aires. Clearly, the BBC will not have it all its own way.

Yet there is far more at stake than the rights to delayed pictures from Twickenham. The Welsh, Scottish and Irish unions all turned down BSkyB's approach, leaving the *rights for live coverage of* games at Murrayfield, Cardiff Arms Park and Lansdowne Road up for grabs. If the BBC *could pick up those contracts* together with the subsidiary rights from Twickenham, then *Bill McLaren could keep on* commentating on Calcutta Cup matches for as long as he is willing, fit and able.

Which, on the evidence of Saturday's game, could be for a few years yet. True, in the heat of battle, he invented someone called "Will Underwood", who had apparently *captained England some 59* times, while Derek Stark is probably none to pleased about having his acceleration compared to that of a Rolls-Royce — but otherwise McLaren had a good and splendidly impartial game.

Neither he nor Bill Beaumont, who, having lost *A Question of Sport, has some*how hung on to his summariser's chair, distinguished themselves in the wake of the *controversial penalty try, but* given that their sound link chose that minute to give up *and that yesterday's newspa*pers offered umpteen explanations of Paddy O'Brien's decision, I don't think we can be too hard on them for that.

Full marks to the director for digging out the replay at half-time, which showed that the touch judge was right to disallow Rob Wainwright's *disputed try. Less fulsome* praise for missing far too much live action while showing replays and for a poor job of keeping the score from Cardiff Arms Park secret. The BBC sound men may have muffled Twickenham's public address system, but nothing could disguise the subsequent roar of the crowd. Exiled Welshman everywhere knew exactly what that meant.

TENNIS: IVANISEVIC SECURES HOME TRIUMPH AFTER CONTROVERSIAL INTERVENTION BY OFFICIAL

Hapless Rusedski judged to have put a foot wrong

By Our Sports Staff

A FOOT-FAULT on match point cost Greg Rusedski the chance of victory against Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Croatian indoor champ*ionship in Zagreb yesterday*.

Serving at 7-6 down in the final set tie-break, Rusedski, the British No 2, was called for a foot-fault on his first service, then put his second service low into the net for a double fault that handed victory to Ivanisevic, a Croat, in front of a partisan home crowd.

Rusedski stood in angry protest for several seconds before walking to the net to congratulate his opponent, then protested again to the umpire, before leaving the court. Until then, Rusedski had put up a fine fight in the two-hour match.

Ivanisevic had won the first set on a tie-break too, before Rusedski took the second 6-4, setting up a tense finish in the final set.

Rusedski could count himself doubly unfortunate in the decisive tie-break for, having *fought back from 0-4 down, he* was serving at 5-5 when he broke a string going for a big service and had to change his racket. His second service was in, but a forehand passing shot took Ivanisevic to match point.

Results 36

The Croatian, ranked No 2 in the world, threw away his first chance with a double fault but made it 7-6 with a service winner. Then came the line judge's intervention..

Rusedski had gained the only service break in the entire match between two powerful servers when he broke Ivanisevic in the seventh game of the second set.

The remaining 33 games were generally won comfort*ably by the server. Ivanisevic* had four break points, none of which he could win, and Rusedski succeeded with his only chance.

Aces were plentiful with Ivanisevic serving 22 and Rusedski 19, but Rusedski also showed superb composure for the highly-partisan crowd gave *him no support at all*. Ivanisevic's winners were greeted with near hysteria, while Rusedski's were met with silence.

After the match, Rusedski claimed that the line judge involved — who is also Croatian — had been banned by the Association of Tennis Pro*fessionals (ATP)* from officiating on the tour again. The same judge had also called a *foot-fault* against Rusedski when he had break point.

Rusedski said: "The ATP is banning that linesman specifically from ever doing a tournament again. He is from Croatia himself. It is not fair unfortunately, but that's the way it goes sometimes.

"I *don't foot-fault. I haven't* been called for one foot-fault the whole week. It just doesn't make any sense." He added: "The only times I was foot-faulted was on a break-point and on match-point and I think the attitude of that particular line judge was unprofessional.

"*It was a very unfortunate* ending to a very pleasing week in which I beat two top players in Thomas Enqvist and Jan Siemerink.

"Next time I must not allow Goran to get to a final tie-break, but despite losing the match I'm very pleased with myself."

Rusedski takes the game to Ivanisevic, the home favourite, in Zagreb yesterday

Graf knee injury gifts Hingis another title

STEFFI GRAF pulled out of the final of the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday with a knee injury, forfeit*ing the title to Martina* Hingis, of Switzerland.

Graf, the world No 1, from Germany, had aggravated an injury to her left knee during her semi-final victory over Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, of Holland, on Saturday.

It was Hingis's third straight title and fifth in total *this season, including the* Australian Open last month.

"This morning, I saw the doctor and I've done everything I could," Graf said. "I tried to go out on to the practice court, but I knew that I had no chance to play. I could not play at all."

Graf said that she had injured a tendon in the knee for the first time during practice for the Eastbourne *tournament shortly before* Wimbledon last year.

She also withdrew from a semi-final match at Leipzig in September and from a final in Philadelphia in October because of the same injury.

Her latest withdrawal meant that Graf, 27, the winner of the Tokyo tourna*ment in 1986, 1990 and 1994*, will have to wait a little longer to become the second woman tennis player to reach the $20 million (£12.5 million) mark in career prize-money.

She had to be satisfied with the $67,500 runner-up prize, while Hingis, 16, collected $150,000.

South Africa retain unblemished record

JACQUES KALLIS scored a career-best 79 as South Africa beat India by six wickets in Port Elizabeth to remain unbeaten in the three-nation limited-overs cricket series. Allan Donald took three wickets to help to limit India to 179 for nine off 50 overs, with Kallis claiming two victims before guiding his side to 180 for four in reply with almost five overs to spare.

The victory gives South Africa a 5-0 record in the tournament, which also includes Zimbabwe, while India *have two defeats* and a draw. South Africa and India face each other once more, with India and Zimbabwe then playing twice to determine who meets the hosts in the final.

India never recovered from losing three wickets for only 11 runs, although Rahul Dravid and Mohammad Azharrudin managed to take the score to respectable heights with a 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Both reached half-centuries, the only bright spots *in an otherwise drab batting* performance.

Riegler races home

SKIING: Claudia Riegler, of New Zealand, denied Pernilla Wiberg the World Cup slalom title yesterday with a comfortable win in Laax, Switzerland. Leading after the first run, Riegler raced down the Barguns course to chalk up her *third victory of the season with a combined time of* 1min 20.75sec.

Wiberg, of Sweden, leader of the slalom standings and the overall World Cup, shared third place with Martina Accola, of Switzerland, both 0.01sec behind the day's surprise package, Lara Magoni, of Italy. Eighth after the first run, Magoni posted the fastest second run to take second place with an aggregate time of 1:20.82. Katja Seizinger, of Germany, the defending world champion, did not compete because she was still suffering from a head injury suffered in *a spectacular fall in the downhill on Saturday*.

Defeat stings Bees

ICE HOCKEY: Bracknell Bees went to Sheffield on Saturday full of optimism, with a record of four wins in their previous five games, only to find that the Steelers, out of sorts of late, had regained their form and they were beaten 3-0. Sheffield are now two points behind Cardiff Devils in the Superleague after Cardiff had a convincing 4-0 win over Ayr Scottish Eagles.

New role for Lowe

RUGBY LEAGUE: Graham Lowe, right, the former New Zealand, Manly-Warringah and Wigan coach, has agreed to be consultant to the South African Rugby League after the *Rhinos' encouraging show*ing at the Super League's World Nines, in Townsville, Australia. Great Britain lost 10-0 to Western Samoa in the semi-finals yesterday. Britain won their five group games, including a victory over New Zealand, who beat Samoa 16-0 in the final.

Hayles sets new mark

CYCLING: Rob Hayles (Team Ambrosia), the national ten miles champion, broke the 40 kilometre event record by 1min 43sec in time trials near Havant, Hampshire, yesterday, finishing in 57min 11sec. In Kettering, Harry Walker (GS Metro), the silver medal-winner last year in the 50 miles championship, broke both event and course record in the 26.4-mile trial by 64sec, with a time of 1hr 03min 20sec.

Imperial triumph

ROWING: Bill Mason, the coach to the Great Britain women's Olympic eight last summer, was back in his accustomed role with Imperial College at the Peterborough Head on Saturday and could be seen giving competitors pre-race advice. It worked, for Imperial students, many combining with Queen's Tower alumni, won ten divisions despite the first eight having been left at home to train.

Double goes west

LACROSSE: West Territory completed a double triumph when they won the junior territorial title at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, on Saturday, to add to their victory in the reserves' tournament. Coached by Sarah Butt, the England player, West beat East 3-1, Midlands 4-2, North 5-1, South 3-0 and Wales 6-1. They now have their sights fixed on the triple crown — the senior territorials start next Saturday.

SNOOKER: OLD FAVOURITE SUFFERS ANOTHER DEFEAT AS HENDRY MOVES CLOSER TO NEW MILESTONE

Parrott prevails as White's game goes to pot

By Phil Yates

JIMMY WHITE'S depressing sequence of defeats continued yesterday when he was beaten 6-5 by John Parrott for a place in the quarter-finals of the Benson & Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre.

White, a perennial favourite at the game's premier invitation event, led 3-0, 4-3 and 5-4, but found it impossible to complete his first victory of a thoroughly miserable season. *The Londoner, who has fallen* to No 41 in the provisional world rankings, has lost 12 consecutive matches.

Parrott, mentally "bushed" by a sapping run to the semi-finals of the Regal Welsh Open last week, was plagued by mistakes induced by a lack of concentration. A prime example was the missed pink at 25-0 in the ninth frame that allowed White in for an 81 clearance.

It was White's only contribution of note, though, and a recurring inability to convert scoring chances into frames led directly to another *demoralising defeat*.

The opening match of the tournament produced a surprise result as Brian Morgan, who was awarded a wild-card invitation after winning the sponsor's satellite event three months ago, defeated Tony Drago, of Malta, 5-2.

Stephen Hendry, who begins his challenge for a seventh Masters title in nine *attempts against Morgan in* the last 16 on Tuesday, increased his advantage at the head of the provisional rankings to more than 6,000 points by winning the Welsh Open title on Saturday.

Hendry's 62nd trophy was lifted following a comprehensive 9-2 victory over Mark King in an anticlimatic final that was as one-sided as the score suggests.

An air of inevitability hung over the contest from the moment that Hendry smoothly put together runs of 140 and 101 to seize the opening two frames. That former effort, a *total clearance, earned the* Scot £5,000 for the highest televised break. That, in addition to the first prize of £37,500, took his total competitive earnings for the season, in which he has also prevailed at the United Kingdom championship and Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, to more than £200,000.

King won the third frame and *should* have taken the fifth to trail only 3-2. He missed a reasonably straightforward red when leading 50-32, however, Hendry cleared to pink for 4-1 and, after compiling a 106 break in *the next frame, moved* 6-1 ahead.

The world champion met little resistance in the concluding session. Hendry, now successful in *27* ranking events, needs to capture eight more titles to equal *Steve* Davis's unprecedented haul of 70. On this evidence, it is surely only a matter of time.

GOLF

Ballesteros's Ryder Cup worries eased by Martín

By John Hopkins, golf correspondent

SEVERIANO Ballesteros, Spain's first Ryder Cup cap*tain, has been worrying that* his Europe side against the United States in September might not contain a Spaniard.

That worry receded yesterday when Miguel Angel Martin won the Heineken Classic in Perth and, as a result, leaped to second place in the Ryder Cup table. Martin, 34, won £107,546 and now has 251,575 Ryder Cup points. To be sure of being in Ballesteros's team he needs another 100,000 points.

There was another good side to Martin's win at The Vines and this was the moral fibre that he demonstrated on *the 72nd hole. It has been* known for some time that he has talent but there had been *doubts as to whether he had* the heart to go with it. The way that he exploded from a greenside bunker to six feet and then holed the putt for a birdie four to win by one stroke from Fred Couples suggests that he has.

So ended the Heineken Classic, a tournament that has been dogged by controversy. First, there was Michael Campbell's admission that *last year* he had deliberately three-putted in order to miss the cut at a tournament in *Europe. Then, John Daly* turned in another of those performances that strain to breaking point the loyalties of those who want to think well of him.

After an 83 in the third round, Daly was the first out yesterday and, accompanied by a marker, raced around in 130 *minutes*. He used his driver on almost every hole, which was a clear sign that he had lost interest. A 76 and last place prompted an admonition for the 1995 Open champion from Tony Roosenburg, the tournament promoter, and the man who paid Daly a hand*some appearance fee.* "He is one of the most *talented* players in the game but has to go and live a little bit as an athlete and as a *grown-up*." Roosenburg said. "He is now *entertainment* value for the spectators. Nobody takes him seriously any more."

Tiger Woods's third round in the AT & T Pebble Beach National *Pro-Am* presented a stark contrast to Daly's performance in Australia. Woods *started the day at two* under par, in danger of missing the cut for the first time as a pro.

Whereas Daly seems to have difficulties motivating himself, Woods has none. He had nine birdies in a 63 that resulted in him moving to joint fifth. That was the good news for Woods. The bad news was that he still lost ground on David Duval, the leader. Playing at Pebble Beach, Duval went to the turn in 28, a course record on his way to a 62 and a record 54-*hole total of* 198, 18 *under* par, and leads by three strokes from Jim Furyk and Mark O'Meara. Jesper Parnevik is fourth, one stroke further back.

Martin: victory

Leading scores, page 36

SWIMMING: BRITON LOSES EUROPEAN 100 METRES BUTTERFLY RECORD IN UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES

Unknown Ushkov spoils Hickman's birthday party

From Craig Lord
in Gelsenkirchen

IF RUSSIA'S rocket fails to fire, watch out for her loose cannon. For when James Hickman, of Great Britain, was taught a coming-of-age lesson on his 21st birthday at the sixth round of the World Cup here yesterday, the man who broke his four-day-old European 100 metres butterfly record hailed, as expected, from Volgograd. However, it was the wrong man.

*Denis Pankratov, the double Olym*pic and world champion, had set a world record over 200 metres on *Saturday in 1min* 52.64sec. Hickman *finished second in 1min* 55.00sec, a British record, and their clash in the 100 metres was eagerly awaited.

It was not to be, however. Pankratov false-started in the heats of the 100 metres yesterday morning and the one-start World Cup rule kept him out of the final.

In that final, neither Hickman nor anyone else, bar perhaps the Russians, had rated as a contender 19-year-old Konstantin Ushkov, the second Russian challenger. Aping his *better known training partner*, Ushkov swam the first length underwater, taking an obligatory stroke into the wall at his first turn. The early lead *he gained was decisive and though* Hickman fought back, he could not match the Russian's 52.26sec, against the 52.34sec that the Briton had clocked in Glasgow on Wednesday, and his 52.49sec for second place yesterday.

Pankratov said Ushkov's time was a surprise, and that he hoped to break the world 100 metres record in Paris next Sunday, when the World Cup concludes.

On Saturday, Marcel Wouda, of the *Netherlands, set a world record of* 4mins 05.59sec in the 400 metres medley. The third world record came in the 50 metres breaststroke where *Xue Han, a 15-year-old Chinese*, lowered her own mark by 0.10sec to 30.77sec. There were also European *records from Russia's Nina* Zhivanevskaia (58.99sec in the heats of the 100 metres backstroke), and from Germany's Jorg Hoffmann (3mins 40.78 in the 400 metres freestyle) and Sandra Volker (26.97sec in the 50 metres butterfly).

Volker's temporary training partner in Hamburg is Britain's Mark Foster, winner yesterday of the 50 metres *freestyle for the fourth consecutive* year. Britain's other success came from Susan Rolph, of Newcastle, who won the 100 metres medley.

Football and politics combine to deal body blow

Rob Hughes believes that English opposition to Germany's 2006 World Cup bid is ill-judged

JUST when English football has regained some esteem and influence abroad, the Football Association and the main political parties have colluded to shoot themselves in the foot. The outrage from Lancaster Gate, and from the Government and Labour opposition this weekend concerning the FA's bid to stage the World Cup in 2006, could make them all a laughing stock.

The unholy alliance of football and politics first amused and now has annoyed so many of the European and world executives on both Uefa and Fifa, that, if any chance of England usurping Germany as the preferred candidate for 2006 existed, it is sunk now.

"The FA have forgotten the Uefa policy that one official candidate should be put forward for each continent," Gerhard Aigner, the Uefa general secretary, said yesterday. "It seems unfortunate that a former vice-president of Uefa should have forgotten that he was present at meetings, in 1993, 1994 and 1995, all of which endorsed the German candidature for 2006."

Aigner, not wishing to name Sir Bert Millichip, who retired as FA chairman last summer, agreed that Sir Bert, and others, had been present when Europeans had agreed in unison that the Korea-Japan rivalry for 2002, with its obscene costs in both financial and political terms, should never be repeated, particularly not on the mother continent of the world game.

"I was astonished first to learn that England intended to rival Germany's candidature when I saw invitations from John Major, the Prime Minister, to Uefa executive committee members to attend Downing Street on February 12. That was why, when the executive committee met in Lisbon last week, they instructed me to write to the FA, reminding them of Uefa's commitment to support Germany."

How could England have become so uninformed, so confused, as to use the weapon of publicity to counteract this private letter? The answer is that England's presence on the councils of influence in world football equates to a hole in space.

They have no leading official on any influential Fifa or Uefa committee, whereas Germany has Egidius Braun, vice-president and treasurer of Uefa, chairman of the organising committee for Euro 96, and two colleagues on virtually every important Fifa committee.

Moreover, Berti Vogts sits with the Fifa technical committee and Franz Beckenbauer lends his ideas to Task Force 2000, Fifa's think-tank for the game's future. Yesterday, Pele, no less, gave public support to Beckenbauer as a likely successor to the Fifa president, João Havelange.

The Germans are everywhere, the English nowhere. Yet the FA, under its chief executive Graham Kelly, has convinced the Prime Minister and Tony Blair, the Labour leader, that there has been what Blair called "a cosy stitch-up" between Germany and Uefa.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, also believing what he was told by the FA, spoke at the weekend of "an attempt to hijack European support for Germany". As if to prove that all our politicians are in cloud-cuckoo land, the Prime Minister pronounced that England, uniquely, has the tradition and the facilities to grace this particular World Cup.

It was not a German but a Norwegian and a Turkish member of the Uefa executive who suggested last week that England be reined in from opposing the German bid. Those delegates are aware that Germany has a record of continual service to football on the Continent; that, over the last 20 years, Germany has prepared stadiums in readiness to act as a stand-by should any of the World Cups.

In those years, and right up to 1993, when Germany presented its candidature for 2006, England was not only under-represented in the working committees of the game, but knocking at the door from the outside, trying to shed the image of pariahs after the hooligan years.

Bringing it down from nationalities to personalities, there are already those within Uefa — and because the Uefa and Fifa executives are inextricably linked, also the wider body — who find it hard to believe that the concerted English accusations of foul play by Uefa should attempt to discredit Lennart Johansson.

He, the Swedish president of Uefa and potentially the next president of Fifa, had, through personal friendship with Sir Bert, put his own position at risk to propose football coming home to England for the European championship.

"It is hurtful to Lennart Johansson, this situation," a Uefa member said last night. "For Lennart believed England was worth a chance. Even when nobody agreed with him, he was so persuasive that, in the end, Euro 96 happened."

Kelly: backing English bid

CRICKET

England's hurried departure leaves a lot to be desired

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN WANGANUI

WANGANUI (final day of four): New Zealand A beat England XI by 90 runs

ENGLAND let themselves down here, not so much by losing a match, which was merely untimely, but by losing a significant test of character. Through this, more even than through their failure to win the first Test, they have surrendered a healthy psychological advantage to New Zealand.

It was no disgrace to be beaten by a talented New Zealand A side, for this was always destined to be a fixture of dubious benefit to England. They could not easily be pardoned, however, for the manner the match was conceded and the impression they conveyed that being asked to play here at all was an imposition.

No one represented this theory more revealingly than the man whose job it is to prevent such corrosive emotions, David Lloyd. From the first morning on this charming ground in an unremarkable country town, the England coach was simmering with resentments over the scheduling and setting of the game. As the weekend passed, his views hardened into something approaching a persecution complex.

It had its outcome when Lloyd strode, stony-faced, into the press tent yesterday, immediately after Phil Tufnell had ended the match with an unambiguously uninterested innings. Lloyd tacitly condoned Tufnell's attitude by saying: "I don't want to be long. We've got better things to do, a proper game to think about." Half-an-hour later, the team bus left for Wellington.

Lloyd has a fixation that the demands on his side since the Auckland Test have been unreasonable. Repeatedly, he has returned to the theme. "We can now have the rest we didn't get after the Test match," he said pointedly. "I'm sure the New Zealanders have enjoyed the last five or six days. I haven't noticed them playing much cricket."

He argues that England have now worked for ten consecutive days — "I don't count a travel day as a rest" — and that they faced ambitious opposition on an unreliable pitch within a park ground, all conspiring against suitable preparation for the two remaining Test matches. He has half a point but no more.

Does he seriously believe England have been singled out, victimised in a way to which touring teams are unaccustomed? Surely not. Crowded itineraries are standard these days. Australia, for instance, will have only one day after the first Test in England this summer before playing two three-day county fixtures back-to-back. Is that any less of an imposition?

Lloyd has already entered murky waters with one embarrassing monologue this winter, when his reaction to the conclusion of the Bulawayo Test was, at best, ungracious. Yesterday, refusing to be shaken from his subject, his hands clenched, his brows knitted, he again did neither himself nor his players any service, instead arousing concerns about his temperamental suitability for the position.

He is a man of many virtues, a personality to whom the players warm, an innovator when coaching and a natural communicator. But he is also a man of passion and if that passion rages unchecked and he habitually communicates personal gripes best left unsaid, it can only be counter-productive. His tenure as coach, launched only last summer with refreshing vigour and to general approval, will be a short and sad one if he continues to allow his demeanour to become so transparently negative.

Perspective is precious in these situations and, just as Lloyd seems to have lost his over a few difficult days here, so the trigger reaction to another England defeat should not necessarily be extreme. It is crucial to remember that, less than a week ago, England were one ball away from a crushing Test victory and that, as yet, there is no cause to doubt they are better than New Zealand. With that said, Lloyd was unconvincing when he claimed: "This game has not damaged us in the slightest."

The contrast in mood and commitment of the two teams was stark, if not entirely surprising. England, with six weary survivors of Eden Park, looked to be going through the motions for much of the game, while the New Zealanders played with the roistering, communal spirit of a group with much to gain.

The England Test openers, Nick Knight and Michael Atherton, both failed twice, which was disturbing, and there was no positive resolution to the bowling debates. Chris Silverwood had a very good day and a very poor one, Andy Caddick bowled with life but no luck and Robert Croft managed only two wickets from 39 overs on a pitch offering generous turn.

By the final morning, the cause seemed lost but Croft and Jack Russell offered 75 minutes of positive defiance, carrying their seventh-wicket stand to 73 before Croft was held at short leg from a full-blooded sweep.

The tail then submitted meekly and when Tufnell ignored attempts to shepherd him off the strike and slogged Harris wilfully to mid-off, Russell looked properly shocked. Far more worrying than the result, however, was the sense that England settled happily for it in exchange for an unseemly early departure.

[illegible]

NEW ZEALAND A: First Innings 181 (M J Horne 64; C E W Silverwood 6 for 44).

Second Innings

*D J Murray b Caddick	12
C M Spearman c Knight b Irani	47
P Chandler c Atherton b Croft	31
M J Horne lbw b Tufnell	8
C Z Harris c Knight b White	71
L G Howell lbw b Tufnell	66
†J Mills c Silverwood b White	20
P J Wiseman not out	12
H T Davis lbw b Caddick	0
R J Kennedy c Atherton b Caddick	11
G I Allott c Russell b Irani	1
Extras (b 2, lb 6, nb 1)	9
Total	288

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-84, 3-101, 4-101, 5-218, 6-253, 7-261, 8-266, 9-287.

BOWLING: Silverwood 17-1-74-0; Caddick 27-5-52-3; Tufnell 17-4-45-2; Croft 24-6-48-1; Irani 6.5-1-13-2; White 14-2-48-2.

ENGLAND XI: First Innings 107 (G I Allott 4 for 44).

Second Innings

N V Knight c Spearman b Allott	4
*M A Atherton lbw b Allott	0
N Hussain c Allott b Davis	57
J P Crawley c Mills b Allott	38
C White c Chandler b Wiseman	21
R C Irani b Allott	4
†R C Russell not out	61
R D B Croft c Chandler b Wiseman	49
A R Caddick c Horne b Davis	12
C E W Silverwood run out	10
P C R Tufnell c Kennedy b Harris	2
Extras (b 7, lb 6, nb 1)	14
Total	272

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-6, 3-72, 4-126, 5-126, 6-143, 7-216, 8-241, 9-266.

BOWLING: Allott 16-1-76-4; Davis 18-3-63-2; Kennedy 10-2-32-0; Wiseman 30-6-84-2; Harris 2.4-1-4-1.

Umpires: B Bowden and E Watkin.

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT

Hussain, the England vice-captain, is forced to take evasive action by Allott

New Zealand turn to student

FROM ALAN LEE

DANIEL VETTORI was spending Saturday in a way that boys just out of school tend to do. He was with his mates, planning "a big night" to celebrate the end of exams, the start of freedom. Then he had a telephone message that changed his plans and his young life.

When Vettori returned a call from Ross Dykes, convenor of New Zealand's selectors, he was told that he had been chosen in the 12 for the second Test against England, starting in Wellington on Thursday. "I was baffled," Vettori said. "Completely shocked."

Hardly surprising, really. Vettori turned 18 only a week ago and, if he plays, he will become New Zealand's youngest Test cricketer. Remarkably, he has played only two first-class matches, the first for Northern Districts against England a fortnight ago, when his left-arm spin was evocative of Philip Tufnell at his best, five years ago.

Boffinish of appearance, Vettori may have to put on hold his health sciences degree course at university. Dykes and his fellow selectors have identified him as "a very special talent" and have promised that he will remain in their squad for the two remaining Tests against England, and two more against Sri Lanka.

The future for Danny Morrison looks far less healthy, even though he belied his reputation and his position at No 11 to bat for almost three hours and save the first Test. However, he was in the team to bowl, not bat, and he bowled conspicuously badly.

Morrison's place has gone to Geoff Allott, who took eight wickets at Wanganui. New Zealand could have two left-armers in a well-balanced attack, though Vettori may be omitted to accommodate the batting all-rounder, Chris Harris, who replaces Justin Vaughan.

Lara's century comes too late for West Indies

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PERTH

PERTH (second day of five: Australia won toss): West Indies, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 110 runs ahead of Australia

BRIAN LARA has made a century at long last, and a very good one, but, far from giving West Indies cause to rejoice, his innings yesterday was a reminder of how much he has let them down on this tour. Lara's 132, the eighth Test hundred of his career, enabled his team to claim a lead of 110 by the end of the second day. How much better it would have been for him, and them, if he had made it in the first innings at Brisbane.

It was there, two long months ago, that Australia took the first step towards winning this series. West Indies are in a strong position to triumph here, on a cracked pitch of variable bounce, and if they do they can thank Lara, who, for once, lived up to his reputation. He made his runs from 184 balls, found the boundary 15 times and cleared it once he was safely past three figures, when he lifted Warne over long-on.

He played some lovely strokes after starting his innings in a subdued manner, as though he had taken to heart some strong words about his obligations to the side. Bevan, the chinaman bowler who had terrorised West Indies at Adelaide, was swept and pulled out of the attack and the other bowlers saw the full face of a bat brought down with a mighty flourish.

Lara added 208 for the third wicket with Samuels, who did not long outlive him. After Warne had persuaded Lara to push at a wider ball, to be caught behind, Samuels was taken at silly mid-off. Samuels had served his side well in making 76, but it was not an innings that will be lovingly recalled. He does not move his feet much, and you would not invest much money on him becoming the opening batsman that West Indies require.

Of his many handsome strokes, Lara's most pleasurable was the cover drive that brought up his hundred. The fact that it came off Warne would not have hurt him, either. There were also a couple of those wonderful pull shots, achieved with a straight bat as though he was driving the ball through mid-wicket off the back foot. When he chose to drive down the ground he did that with power, too.

Warne bowled six overs before lunch, giving away only a couple of runs, but he was not seen again until shortly before tea, when Lara was 92. It is true that the pitch favoured the faster bowlers, among whom McGrath again stood out, but Taylor's reluctance to use Warne was a bit surprising. Reiffel had problems landing his front leg, as he has had all winter, with the effect that Australia exceeded West Indies' total of no-balls.

In the end, Warne got Lara for the third time in successive innings, except that here Lara had something to show for it. West Indies managed to make 300 for only the second time in their past 14 innings against Australia and, having attained a significant lead with three wickets remaining — and with Hooper at the crease — they have a strong chance of claiming victory.

Scoreboard 36

Hooper was by turns elegant and punishing as he moved to a half-century of his own in the last session, after three wickets fell to the new ball. West Indies made more than 130 in each of the last two sessions, after an opening two hours in which they made 59 for the loss of Campbell and, to a top-edged hook, Chanderpaul.

It was less hot than it had been on Saturday, when temperatures of 46C meant that Ambrose and Bishop alternated from the same end to preserve their energy. Lara was leading proceedings in the field as Walsh left it after bowling nine overs with a pulled hamstring. He hopes to be fit to bowl in Australia's second innings, but with Ambrose in the form he showed on the first day, the captain might not be needed.

BADMINTON

Goode carries all before her

BY RICHARD EATON

JOANNE GOODE almost certainly made a piece of sporting history by winning a national title while four months pregnant yesterday. Goode, the former All England mixed doubles champion, and Simon Archer, her new partner this season, needed little more than half an hour to overcome Chris Hunt and Donna Kellogg 15-15, 15-2 in the final at Norwich, a victory which many thought might have been beyond her.

There had been moments during the women's doubles semi-final, which Goode and lost Gillian Gowers earlier in the day, when her mobility was found wanting. But in the mixed Goode was always in control, picking off winners in the front court as Archer, one of the world's hardest hitters, created openings with thunderous smashes and lightning fast jabs and whips.

It was sometimes difficult to believe that Hunt is the Commonwealth Games gold medal winner in this event and Kellogg a triple national junior champion. The outcome of the final was only in doubt until 8-5 in the first game after which Archer and Goode broke away with a run of seven successive points on Goode's serve. In the second game, the second seeds went from 3-2 to 15-2, only losing the service on seven occasions.

Her husband, the British Olympic manager, Andy Goode, admitted: "I was a little anxious at times. She only played hard in patches earlier in the tournament."

Goode, herself, insisted: "I felt comfortable. I was able to take the net and played hard right through the final. There were no problems — but I won't compete again until I have had the baby."

Earlier Peter Knowles won the men's singles title, taking advantage of the absence of Darren Hall, the injured eight-times champion, by beating the unseeded Steffan Pandya 15-1, 15-1 in only 25 minutes. The women's singles title was recaptured by Julia Mann after saving a game point in the first game against Joanne Muggeridge and going on to win 12-11, 11-4.

Goode: pregnant champion

FOOTBALL

Doncaster put in their place by Lionesses

MILLWALL Lionesses provided further evidence that the balance of power in the women's game has shifted irrevocably with their third victory of the season over Doncaster Belles yesterday. Their convincing 3-0 win took the Lionesses through to the quarter-finals of the WFA Cup and keeps them on course for the treble.

Millwall had beaten Doncaster just once in their history — in the WFA Cup final in 1991 — before this season, but the solid set-up at Millwall, and a dwindling spirit at the Belles, has combined to change all that.

A neat chip from Tina Lindsay put Millwall ahead after 20 minutes and Lou Waller made it 2-0 with a curling free kick. Pru Buckley then completed the scoring with a solo effort.

HOCKEY

Southgate rocked by Gibson's hat-trick

IMPRESSIVE finishing by Richard Gibson and an increased workrate throughout the team were responsible for an impressive 5-2 victory for East Grinstead at Southgate in the National League premier division match yesterday.

Southgate, with a depleted side, battled well and, although 4-0 down at half-time, they could point to two efforts that had missed by inches and a shot taken off the line by Zander.

Head and Bhatti gave the visitors a two-goal lead before Gibson, who struck in the 31st, 32nd and 38th minutes — the second goal coming from a penalty stroke — made the game safe as Cadman, in the Southgate goal, endured a barrage of shots.

Southgate retaliated with a goal by Gibbins in the 52nd minute, from a short corner, and another two minutes later by Amarjit Bhogal.

Canterbury, playing at home, could not contain Reading, who won 3-2 after the teams had shared four goals in the first half. Ashdown's second goal, in the 55th minute from a short corner, proved decisive.

Teddington won their seventh successive match by defeating Surbiton 3-1, Billson, McGuire, from a short corner, and Hauck scoring for Teddington and Sexton for Surbiton. Cannock beat Havant 3-1 to stay at the top of the table, Crutchley scoring all their goals.

Hounslow eased their relegation worries with a 6-2 home win over Old Loughtonians but Barford Tigers, another side in trouble, lost 4-0 at home to Guildford.

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RUGBY UNION: IRELAND SURVIVE EARLY SETBACK TO EXTEND REMARKABLE RECENT RUN OF SUCCESS AT CARDIFF ARMS PARK

First impressions prove deceptive as Wales flounder

Wales........................... 25
Ireland 26

BY GERALD DAVIES

WALES enjoyed an opening assault that you might say was *too good to be true: admiration* mingled with a generous portion of disbelief accompanied the spellbinding broadside. With seamless *co-ordination, nearly half the* team laid their hands on the ball without interruption, Wales scoring their first try after 31 seconds.

It was as if the past fortnight had not interrupted Wales; as if they had cantered off Murrayfield and traipsed without pause on to the Arms Park to continue where they had left off against Scotland. Wales's long-cherished dreams were being realised to the full-throated rendering of *Bread of Heaven*. It was hardly believable. The good times were back.

Another chase by Evans nearly brought him his second try which, after Elwood's penalty goal, might have proved *enough to undermine* altogether whatever ambition Ireland held at the start of this Heineken international. What a fall there was that followed.

Wales, instead of waxing to this inspirational beginning, seemed to be diminished by their half-minute's brilliance, whereas Ireland appeared transfigured by such an early turn of events. At any rate, *Ireland, but for the* final ten minutes, when Wales revived, had a better understanding of their theme and played studiously to it.

After Wales's sudden burst, Davidson and Johns dominated the lineout and penalty kicks went Ireland's way.

Thus Ireland controlled the possession at the critical time for their own players to compose *themselves and so denied* Wales any further advantage.

For the next hour, though never in command, they were confidently sure of the path *that would bring them victory.* While Ireland, yet again, could not provide a concerted effort for the full 80 minutes, Brian Ashton, their coach, believes *that "this victory is* a nice platform for the English match".

The bedrock upon which this victory was based was carved in the shape of Corkery, *McBride and*, especially, the ubiquitous Miller. They gave not an inch when threatened by Howley or by the more physically powerful Quinnell, Williams and Charvis. The Ireland trio, in *turn, were more* likely to create danger by their forages into a Wales defence that was more yielding than against Scotland.

The France selectors hope that Alain Penaud, who led Brive to the Heineken Cup *last month, will be fit to play* against Wales in Paris on February 15. Penaud damaged an ankle against Leicester but is in the squad.

FRANCE SQUAD: Backs: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers), D Venditti (Brive), E Ntamack (Toulouse), T Castaignède (Toulouse), R Dourthe (Dax), S Glas (Bourgoin), C Lamaison (Brive), A Penaud (Brive), P Carbonneau (Brive), G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux) Forwards: C Califano (Toulouse), J-L Jordana (Toulouse), P Triep-Capdeville (Pau), M Dalmaso (Agen), M de Rougemont (Toulon), O Merle (Montferrand), H Miorin (Toulouse), F Pelous (Dax), A Benazzi (Agen), R Castel (Béziers), O Magne (Dax)

The luck that they had at Murrayfield also deserted them when Elwood's garryowen was so finely accurate that the ball shaved the post as it descended. Jenkins took the ball but, brushing against the *upright, let the ball slip from* his grip into Bell's eager hands for a try that took Ireland into the lead.

The prologue to their first *try was the initial sign of the* significant role that Elwood was to play for the remainder of the game. He had a solid formation in front of him. He *had an inside player, Hogan,* who insisted that his opponents paid attention to him. Thus Elwood's way was clearly defined to take the overview. *He did so with aplomb, his* cunning kicks, aimed largely towards James, spreadeagling the Wales defence.

There was a clarity and simplicity to their game. If they needed to move forward quickly, for instance, Ireland adopted a straightforward kick. Wales, on the other hand, would push and shove, ruck and maul their way grindingly forward.

Ireland held the cutting edge in attack and capitalised swiftly. After their first try, *Hogan was the next to run* and was supported by Elwood before Miller pushed his way over. Elwood converted.

The next try, in the 33rd *minute, was spearheaded by* Staples in his own half. This was equally smart with Hickie, on his debut, benefiting from Corkery's pass. Had Elwood been as adept with his attempts at goal as he had been with his tactical kicking, Ireland might have been more handsomely in the lead at the interval.

Another superlative try by *Evans in the sixth minute of* the second half, after Elwood's penalty goal, suggested that Wales might recapture the verve of their previous international, but, after the stand-off halves had exchanged penalty goals, Scott Quinnell's try, in the 76th minute, came too late.

SCORERS: Wales: Tries: Evans (2), S Quinnell Conversions: Jenkins (2). Penalty goals: Jenkins (2). Ireland: Tries: Bell, Hickie, Miller. Conversion: Elwood Penalty goals: Elwood (3).

WALES: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); I C Evans (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend), I S Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Bridgend); A C Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff); C D Loader (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain), D Young (Cardiff), S M Williams (Neath), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), M Rowley (Pontypridd), C L Charvis (Swansea), I S Quinnell (Richmond). Rowley replaced by J C Quinnell (Richmond, 62min); Charvis replaced by K P Jones (Ebbw Vale, 68)

IRELAND: J E Staples (Harlequins, captain); D Hickie (St Mary's College), J C Bell (Northampton), M J Field (Malone), D J Crotty (Garryowen); E P Elwood (Lansdowne), N A Hogan (Terenure College); N J Popplewell (Newcastle), R J Nesdale (Newcastle), P S Wallace (Saracens), D S Corkery (Bristol), P S Johns (Saracens), J W Davidson (London Irish), W D McBride (Malone), E R P Miller (Leicester) Johns replaced by G M Fulcher (London Irish, 73)

Referee: W J Erickson (Australia).

The despairing tackle of Jenkins fails to prevent Bell from crossing the line for Ireland's opening try. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

The final whistle brings relief as Bell celebrates victory

When falling behind is the perfect start

ANDREW LONGMORE

At the Arms Park

It was all over in 31 seconds. Wales scored without an Irish hand touching the ball and that was *that. Ireland never looked* back. As the men in green regathered their strength, Jim Staples, their captain, voiced a true piece of Irishness in his distinctly old English tones. "It's 0-0," he shouted. "We haven't started yet. We start now." In other words, they cheated by scoring when we were not ready. Go and ram their audacity down their *throats. In doing so,* Ireland exposed one of sport's great myths. The myth of the "early goal".

How often has one heard *about the soothing nature of* an early goal? The Alka-Seltzer theory, if you like. Side A score quickly at home and, magically, the cares of the world dissolve, the mind clears, the stomach defreezes, *victory is assured. Across the* eyeline, side B, demoralised at being behind so early, shrivels up and dies. But there are early goals and early goals.

Wales *infringed* the rules, scribbled all over their tactical masterplan. They scored before anyone was ready, which scrambles the brain, messes up everything. It is the one *thing the coach has not pre*pared for. "Hey, boys, this is what we do when we score after 31 seconds." It does not happen. It ruins everything.

Think about it. There you are, in Wales red, the strains of *Bread of Heaven* ringing in one ear, the final words of the coach ringing in the other, the bit about not taking the opposition for granted, not *letting them dictate, that sort* of thing. So, right from the kick-off, the forwards rush in, the ball is out, the backs accelerate through a well-rehearsed *routine,* Ieuan Evansscores — 7-0 and barely a minute gone. Relax, your mind says, this is a piece of cake. Look, we scored without trying. The crowd is delirious. Think how many we could get *here. Now what was it the* coach said.

Think of it the Irish way. Now, boys, they will come at you straight from the kick-off, *try to quieten the* crowd, stick to the game-plan and do nothing stupid. Straight from the kick-off, the ball is *whipped past* your face and, before you know it, the *scoreboard reads 0-7 — and you* think "Damn the game-plan, we're behind here and we have to concentrate and get right back at them".

Or, to put it another way: we have not started yet, we start now. Ireland's start happened to coincide with the Wales's finish.

Think of the crowd, too, *paper talk of revival having* heightened by the presence of the five nations' trophy. "The first time the trophy has visited Cardiff since 1992," the *grim-voiced announcer* reminds us. "Let us hope it finds a permanent residence here for some time to come," he adds with a touch of tautology. Then Wales score and expectations, already wildly *inflated,* soar heavenwards, only to spend the next hour in gravity's grip. Wales did not score again for 39 minutes.

Ireland, who are supposed *to be the whipping boys, take* control of the match and the disaffection spreads. Thirty-one seconds of high, 79½ minutes of low. Thomas kicks again, straight down the throat of the full back, and the *groan sweeps down from the* stands and burrows deep into the recesses of desperate minds. The crowd is working in favour of Ireland now.

*How else do Ireland man*age to defy all logic in Cardiff, where they have not lost since 1983? It is more than just coincidence. It is the law of reverse swing, except in the *mind. Every time,* Wales expect to beat Ireland on their own ground; every time, they are surprised; every time, they forget that Ireland thrive on *surprise, that every win is a* surprise. Nothing to lose, go for it.

Perhaps that is why the Welsh Rugby Union is pulling its *stadium down in time* for the 1999 World Cup, building another one, one that does not carry the ghosts of Gareth and Gerald and Barry and Phil and all the other great champions.

In the cold light of morning, Wales will try to gather some crumbs of comfort from defeat. Another two minutes and they would have made it: but Ireland deserved to win. Had Elwood not *missed a kickable conversion and a penalty* late in the first half, the game would have been out of Wales's reach by half-time. Ireland, after all, had the perfect start — *0-7 and a whole* game to go.

Rugby within five nations still sterile and negative

Glen Ross, a coach from New Zealand, suggests performances so far in this season's championship need to be kept in perspective. **John Hopkins** reports

Any optimism that the standard of rugby in Great Britain and Ireland is improving is dismissed by Glenn Ross with as much force as an All Blacks forward drive. *Ross, a New Zealander who was* christened in memory of Glenn Miller, the band leader, should know. Now coaching The Highlanders in the Super 12 series, he coached *Northampton from 1991 to 1994 and* is back in Britain in charge of Otago, who defeated England A in Bristol 42-15 on Friday.

"I don't think things have changed *much in the time I have been away,"* Ross said after watching Ireland defeat Wales in Cardiff and before viewing a video of the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham. "The players *and clubs in England may have been sidetracked a bit by the dispute* [between the Rugby Football Union and the leading clubs in England] and I am uncertain of the true strength of the first division in *England," he said. "London Irish* were quite disappointing against us, but I am not sure I am witnessing a lot of progress.

"British players have been *conditioned to play a certain type of rugby.* It is fairly sterile, fairly negative and slow. It is without the dynamism and speed necessary to break open a team. New Zealand teams used to *play that way, but we quickly learnt we had to react to changes in the* game.

"We have been blessed with a very heavy Polynesian influence in our rugby. These men love running. They *are very quick and have a particular* type of hardness. They have a natural desire to play the game the way it is being played at present."

In Cardiff, Ross was more *impressed with Ireland than with* Wales. "Wales's ball retention left a lot to be desired," he said. "I was disappointed because, from what I had heard, Wales would be full of *running, trying to beat their men, but I did not see any of that. They did not* look as though they had the fitness to play that sort of game. Scott Quinnell is an impact player. I am not sure about his workrate. One burst for a *short period and then a rest.*

"Ireland were committed for 50 minutes and then lost it. The Irish pack were real workers. The tight five were very committed and the back *three played well.* They played the game at a high rate."

Ross said that he was disappointed with Arwel Thomas's performance. "He was very lateral in his running, which made it difficult for the Wales *back line to go forward," he said.* "Also, he looked very frail. You have to be in the faces of the opposition in attack and defence."

Ross praised England A's efforts, *even though they were outscored by* five tries to three. "I was pleased with the way they attempted to move the ball around and not kick it," he said. On the other hand, Otago gave a *good demonstration of forceful at*tacking and sustaining movements. The scoreline flattered England A.

"We were a bit disappointed at our performance in the first 20 minutes," Ross said. "We did a fair amount of damage, but we didn't profit from it. Running straight, *generating power,* the ability to transfer the ball quickly to a supporting player, these are all things I believe in."

Otley win a reward for the motley few

Otley 27
Lydney........................... 17

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE hills around Otley were alive with orienteers. Shoppers bustled about the Yorkshire market town and in a bar someone was struggling to *set the video for the* match. On five nations' day, rugby folk *generally retire to the fireside.* By kick-off, around 150 people had loyally gathered to support Otley's third division cause. They had their reward *in a battling home* victory.

However, when many clubs in the lower reaches of the Courage Clubs Championship are scrapping to earn a living, surely games can kick-off earlier on international match *days.*

Like Otley, although not challenging for promotion, Lydney have surprised themselves by their progress after three years in fifth division south. On Saturday, though, *other than a powerful forward* surge that preceded a try by Kilby, the No 8, the Gloucestershire side's traditional strength was nullified by *Otley's tackling.*

Richard Kelt finished two of Otley's four tries with flair and pace and his defence showed that they should not miss Simon Middleton, who has returned to rugby league with *Castleford.* Missed tackles and hesitation by Lydney brought further tries on the wings by Darby and Kirkby.

When Lydney found their threequarters, Mutyzambizi, a converted back-row forward, displayed a *nice turn of pace.*

SCORERS: Otley: Tries: Kelt (2), Darby, Kirkby Conversions: Rutledge (2) Penalty goal: Rutledge. Lydney: Try: Kilby Penalty goals: Morris (4)

OTLEY: P Rutledge, W Darby, R Kelt, M Billington, M Kirkby; A Cadman, A Brown; C Baldwin, P Kelley, S Rice, R Midgley, R Smith, J Burke, N Hargreaves, A Hargreaves

LYDNEY: P Morris, M Stubbs, A Jewitt, C Mutyzambizi, R Saville; R Mills, J Dove; P Price, N Nelmes, N Bartlett, S Wakeham, R Williams, J Roberts, A Knox, N Kilby

Referee: A Rossall (Liverpool)

Unbeaten Newbury carry all before them

Newbury 49
High Wycombe 10

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

NEWBURY boast the only 100 per cent record in the national divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship and average 40 points a game; *both of these standards were* comfortably maintained *yesterday.*

The jewel in Newbury's crown is undoubtedly Brian Johnson, the right wing, who has forced his way into the England A set-up. His sparkling three tries in the first *eight minutes more than hint*ed at his glowing talents. Unfortunately, he was forced to leave the field a few minutes later, when he was *injured in a tackle.*Tom Holloway, on the left wing, was also forced to retire towards the end of the first half, having just claimed a try himself.

Thereafter, Newbury conspired *to attack Wycombe at* close quarters and Craig Davies, the No 8, and John McCartney, the blind-side, claimed tries late in the sec*ond half.*

Newbury's line was rarely threatened, although Simon Shaw set up Derek Livermore, who scored after a quickly-taken penalty just before half-time.

Nick Grecian, the full back, converted all seven tries and has now been successful with each of his past 20 kicks.

SCORERS: Newbury: Tries: Johnson (3), Holloway, McCartney, Smith, Davies. Conversions: Grecian (7). High Wycombe: Tries: Livermore, Ridler.

NEWBURY: N Grecian, B Johnson, N Osman, R Osman, T Holloway; K Smith, S Halley; S Stewart, P Winfield, S Little, J McCartney, C Hall, A Duke, J Kingdon. Johnson replaced by C Phillips (15min); Holloway replaced by I McGeever (36), Stewart replaced by S Lowe (44), Osman replaced by D Orr Ewing (80)

HIGH WYCOMBE: P Gaster, J Grace, S Gaster, S Roberts, K McLellen; K Cotter, S Shaw; W Jeans, J Brown, M Hinch, D Livermore, A Cambell, A Stone, R Arnold, D Ridler. Roberts replaced by H Mathews (58); F Walton temporary replacement for Arnold (46-48 and 73).

Referee: P Facey (Warwickshire).

O'Mahony supplies the finishing touch

Nottingham 11
Moseley 22

BY A CORRESPONDENT

FOR five of the Moseley side, yesterday was a day to savour. The only *survivors from the* earlier league meeting in September, which they won 34-22, victory over Nottingham at Beeston marked a rare double — even *if it only* improved their position marginally to third from bottom in the Courage Clubs Championship second division.

It was Darragh O'Mahony, one of ten signings since the first match, however, who really made the difference this time, the Irish wing's three spectacular tries exposing the weakness of Nottingham's defence under pressure.

Having conceded an aver*age of 44 points per home* league match this season, Nottingham could draw slight satisfaction from halving that figure. In Wilcox; they had an outstanding debutant at No 8, while Bygrave proved a splendid attacker.

O'Mahony beat two defenders to score in the corner after Le Bas, the Moseley stand-off half, had broken through with *Johal in support, but Bygrave* brought Nottingham back on terms ending a multi-passing move that he had started.

A superb reverse pass by Le *Bas* cleared the way for O'Mahony's second try — he *raced over from fully 35 me*tres — but it was *individual* wizardry that completed his day, giving Moseley a deserved victory.

SCORERS: Nottingham: Try: Bygrave Penalty goals: Evans (2). Moseley: Tries: O'Mahony (3) Conversions: Le Bas (2) Penalty goal: Le Bas

NOTTINGHAM: R Byrom, R Bygrave, J Hall, S Beatham, E Spencer; D Evans, A Royer; M Freer, C Claydon, G Pearce, B McCarthy, M Bradley, L Jones, G Rees, A Wilcox. Bradley replaced by I Gordon (69min).

MOSELEY: S Langley; D Wilkinson, M Ridge, D Harris, D O'Mahony; R le Bas, A Rolland; H Hurley, D Bell, N Webber, R Denhardt, K Whitley, J Cockle, J Johal, A Charron. Langley replaced by A Binns (47).

Referee: D Matthews (Liverpool).

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RUGBY UNION: SCOTLAND ARE OVERRUN AS FORWARD PROWESS AND INSPIRED TEAMWORK PAVE THE WAY FOR RECORD VICTORY

England finally break their shackles

England 41
Scotland 13

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH rugby flexed its muscles on Saturday and discovered that it quite enjoyed the sensation. Having strong-armed a way through an entire five nations' championship a year ago scoring only three tries, against Scotland at Twickenham they managed four in one match in the course of establishing a a national record for the championship.

Never before have they scored so many points against another home union (the score matched exactly their tally against France as long ago as 1907). Indeed, it is five years since they last registered four tries in a championship match, but that was not what Saturday was about. If England derive anything from their eighth successive victory over Scotland, it should be the confidence to express themselves far better, even in the hubbub of Dublin, their next port of call.

FIVE NATIONS

CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	41	13	2
France	1	1	0	0	32	15	2
Wales	2	1	0	1	59	45	2
Ireland	2	1	0	1	41	57	2
Scotland	2	0	0	2	32	75	0

Gomarsall, the England scrum half, cannot contain his delight after scoring the first of their three late tries at Twickenham. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Nobody can possibly imagine that England have turned overnight into world-beaters, least of all the team management. For an hour they huffed and puffed, offering encouraging signs here and there but apparently lacking pace and all too frequently being let down by a lack of basic skills. Then, as if a door had suddenly been flung open on some exotic new paradise, five minutes destroyed Scotland utterly.

As is so frequently the case for any other home union opposed to England, the task of holding their big forwards took a gradual toll, and Andy Gomarsall's try was the equivalent of a dam bursting. It may not have been so much a case of England raising a gear but of Scotland dropping one; the spring in their stride faltered and suddenly England backs and forwards were running at them from all angles, finding space that had not previously existed.

The query posed before the Save and Prosper international over Scotland's fitness reverberated even louder as England, in a more measured way, enjoyed a purple patch of three tries similar to the one that Wales did at Murrayfield a fortnight earlier. However, England's depended far more on team skills than individual brilliance, and they will value Richie Dixon's tribute far more. "These were well-structured tries," Dixon, the Scotland coach said.

Some of England's early error-strewn passages can be forgiven. Gomarsall was playing with a No 8 and stand-off half new to him and the back row was finding its feet as a unit, likewise the back three. Of those three vital areas, none did better than the back row, where Richard Hill enjoyed a conspicuously successful debut.

Too much ball still ends on the ground, however, which is possibly why Paddy O'Brien, the New Zealand referee, allowed so little development of what, in England, passes for a ruck. Second-phase possession was frequently stillborn simply because O'Brien could not see the ball and bodies were flinging themselves in regardless. In the southern hemisphere, sides are content to leave the scrum half to make the decisions; in the north, too many forwards seek to get hands on the ball and take it on that extra yard, which gives defenders time to reorganise.

Even so, Gomarsall received the ball on 62 occasions, nearly twice the amount of possession that went Bryan Redpath's way. That is a telling statistic — of Scottish errors in possession, of ball turned over and of England's ability to recycle ball that should have led to an even greater scoring glut.

The potential existed in the first half, but a one-paced midfield could not make the most of it and the Scotland defence tackled its heart out, nobody to greater effect than Tony Stanger. England's ball-carriers too frequently found themselves isolated.

Scotland's approach was well-conceived, but not well-executed. They tried to take the ball to parts of the field where the England forwards were not, avoiding lineouts unless they could guarantee the throw, holding their ground at set scrums even if it meant putting the front row on the floor.

However, David Johnston, the backs coach, said: "We had a lack of shape and control. I was disappointed with Gregor's [Townsend] performance in that regard, he didn't mix it up as much as he could have."

That will be bleak news for the British Isles selectors, though they would hope to give Townsend, their potential stand-off half in South Africa, a better platform. Once, he opened up the defence as Scotland ran into the southerly wind, but it was poor defending that allowed Logan to create the position from which Redpath sent Eriksson scurrying down the blind side for the only Scotland try.

Will Carling, the former England captain, has confirmed that he will not be available for the British Isles tour to South Africa this summer. "I really don't think I could do myself justice," Carling, 31, said. "I genuinely need to rest my body."

At that stage England led only 10-7, Scotland having been denied a try when Wainwright stretched out an arm to touch down from a maul only for Colin Hawke, the touch judge, to rule that he grounded the ball short. England were more fortunate. The refusal of the Scotland defence to retreat far enough led O'Brien to award a penalty try for persistent infringement when every other indication suggested that England could not unpick the Scotland midfield at that stage.

The exchange of penalty goals between Grayson and Shepherd, who must have been relieved not to have been tested under the high ball as he was against Wales, gave England a 16-10 interval advantage. Scotland closed to 16-13 and England will not have enjoyed twice being penalised ten metres for dissent, but Grayson put daylight between the teams again before Johnson lunged from a maul and gave Gomarsall his try.

That was the sign for England to break free from what Jack Rowell, the coach, described as their "psychological bondage". A tapped penalty and a long pass from Rodber gave Carling his first try against Scotland, and nobody, on the day, deserved one more. Excellent work by Regan and Shaw paved the way for de Glanville to blast through close to a ruck and score the fourth try, and England still had the resilience not to allow Stanger a clear run and some consolation for his bedraggled team.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Gomarsall, Carling, de Glanville, penalty try. Conversions: Grayson (3). Penalty goals: Grayson (5). Scotland: Try: Eriksson. Conversion: Shepherd. Penalty goals: Shepherd (2)

ENGLAND: T R G Stimpson (Newcastle); J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins), P R de Glanville (Bath, captain), T Underwood (Newcastle); P J Grayson (Northampton), A C T Gomarsall (Wasps); G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), M O Johnson (Leicester), S D Shaw (Bristol), R A Hill (Saracens), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army).

SCOTLAND: R J S Shepherd (Melrose); D A Stark (Melrose), A G Stanger (Hawick), B R S Eriksson (London Scottish), K M Logan (Stirling County); G P J Townsend (Northampton), B W Redpath (Melrose); T J Smith (Watsonians), D G Ellis (Currie), M J Stewart (Northampton/Army), P Walton (Newcastle), G W Weir (Newcastle), A I Reed (Wasps), I R Smith (Gloucester), R I Wainwright (Watsonians/Army, captain). Eriksson replaced by S Hastings (Watsonians, 72min)

Referee: P D O'Brien (New Zealand).

Carling enjoys playing for fun

Rob Andrew detects a sense of freedom in the former captain's display

Before England selected their team for the game against Scotland, I made the mistake of wondering aloud on television whether now was the time to omit Will Carling. I should have known better, as a short while later I had an angry Will on the telephone. He was joking, but his rugby is far from a joke.

His display on Saturday was one of the finest I have seen him give. Carling is free from the burdens of captaincy, the fear of being dropped has disappeared — he honestly did not expect to be selected after Phil de Glanville was made captain — and in this mood, of now playing purely for enjoyment, he is producing some of his best rugby. Scotland could not pin him down and his try was a joyful bonus.

It appears that Carling is in a comfort zone. He has been through the grinder, all the machinations of the captaincy are behind him, and every game is like his last one, simply to be enjoyed. The best centre combination would still be Carling and Jeremy Guscott, but Jack Rowell has de Glanville as his captain in the centre and he is right to stick by his decision.

How can you criticise England's highest five nations' score? A great comfort must be that they scored 41 points and yet there is still room for improvement. The danger of all the talk of expansive rugby from the first minute is that you build up a game of rugby. Defences have to be worn down and England achieved this. You never heard criticism of the great Wales sides of the Seventies, when they would grind the opposition down for an hour and blitz them in the last 20 minutes.

Yet there were problems. Midway through the second half, you could see the tension getting to England. Then, vitally, Rowen Shepherd missed a penalty to make it 19-16 and any confidence drained from Scotland. It would be wrong to concentrate everything on those wonderful ten minutes at the end, but they were ten minutes of rugby any side in the world would have been proud to produce. Everything clicked.

I still have my doubts about Andy Gomarsall at scrum half and the back-row combination is not quite right, but this is the team that Jack has built and will probably stick with for the Ireland match.

There was only one moment in the game when Gregor Townsend did not feel Richard Hill breathing down his neck. At last, England have an open-side flanker with pace, height and power. Scotland were playing catch-up rugby virtually from the start. Townsend had little clean ball to work with, but there were occasions when he put his side under greater pressure by taking the wrong option.

The five nations' appears designed to shock. Ireland winning in Wales is one of those biennial oddities. Perhaps they should take up permanent residence in Cardiff. Not that Dublin will be easy for England, who will have noted Wales's fallibility after one good performance. Ireland have a strong pack and will approach the match on Saturday week with a spring in their step.

The first two rounds of the championship have produced some great contests. Six months into the professional era proper we are beginning to see the differences, both physically and mentally. I doubt whether we will have caught up with the southern hemisphere countries by the 1999 World Cup, but we have started out on the long road and the right qualities are showing through on the pitch. The power and pace of some England individuals on Saturday were directly attributable to professionalism.

Rowell revolution requires more rational appraisal

David Miller says the scale of triumph erases the fine line between success and failure

Jack Rowell 41 points, critics nil. It is premature to suggest that England are sitting in clover after their rout of Scotland on Saturday, for there are reservations about their victory, yet it was a magnificent statement of intent, a triumph of willpower, and Rowell, the coach, could afford the wry smile of one who has suddenly seen his litmus paper turn from red to blue.

Seldom has a match demonstrated how fine is the margin that separates perceived success from failure, more especially when a team is playing barely once a month and with little training. Rolls and Royce did not build their machine in a garden shed, but, by the end of an ultimately thrilling afternoon at Twickenham, weary Scotland must have felt as though they had been run over by a 200 horsepower engine.

It is important, therefore, to try to be more rational than that disagreeable breed of supporter that flourishes widely at Twickenham: socially self-assured and noisily ribald in abuse of England for the first hour, then haughtily cocksure by the finish. When, with England winning 19-13 in the fiftieth minute, Shepherd took his Emburey-like round-the-wicket run-up for a penalty and missed, it was still anybody's game in what had been, until then, a darts duel: "Paul Gray-son, one-hun-dred-and-aay-ty!"

'For so long it was so near and yet so far'

Sure, England dominated the play territorially, had recycled effectively in the rucks and mauls. Carling, in particular, Grayson and Gomarsall had made mini-breaks that promised more than they achieved, yet it seemed that England did not have the right-fitting spanners for the bolts that they were trying to tighten. So near, yet so far.

Indeed, had there been a 14-point reversal in the first quarter of an hour, with Wainwright's touchdown allowed and no questionable penalty try for England, the picture might have had a different hue, even if Rowell would insist later: "I don't think it would have dented us."

What existed for an hour was a clearly superior team failing to overwhelm a lesser but determined side that often ran the ball menacingly at England's defence and retained the chance of turning the game with boot or hand.

Rowell had talked of the dyslexia that England suffered against Argentina and the psychological blockage caused by criticism seemingly bent on disorientating the squad. The turning point came not so much in five minutes that produced three tries, starting with Gomarsall's in the 67th minute, but the five minutes of enlightenment just preceding the hour.

It began with a run by Carling on the left, a driving, head-high surge reminiscent of a younger Carling, feinting past two opponents and then grub-kicking for touch near the corner flag.

Suddenly, the stadium stirred with a deep, approving growl as the Rowell revolution visibly began to take root.

Moments later, Rodber won the ball in a maul and Grayson's attempted dropped goal went just wide. Then Sleightholme broke on the right, and England gained the penalty from which Grayson stretched the lead to 22-13. The grinding but unfulfilled intelligence of the first-half tactics was beginning to reap its reward as Scotland started to falter. Wainwright would later admit that his side had to question the extent of its fitness.

Now England were poised for the kill, and again the inspiration flowed from Carling.

Before half-time there had been debate on whether the discarded Guscott would have punched through the momentary gaps, whereas Carling, preferred as de Glanville's partner, had twice been brought down in possession. Now, though, in the space of ten minutes, Carling was busy rewriting English rugby history.

I am left reflecting upon the absurdity of the clamour of modern sport and media hyperbole. In no other field of life — in engineering, advertising, medicine, high street retailing, architecture — do multi-million-pound projects rest upon such minimal preparation and such mountainous expectation. It can be no coincidence that such exposure can wreck the emotional equilibrium of any but the most rational and adjusted of contestants.

England awoke yesterday to headlines of "New heights", "Records", "Feast". Another kick here, another try there, or a referee's changed split-second decision, and it could have been gloom and doom instead, and "Rowell must go". By mere threads do reputations hang. Wisely did de Glanville say: "We won't get carried away. We'll take it with a pinch of salt."

'Gloom was just a kick or a try away'

Rowell said that England had rubbed off the cobwebs that had "left a bad taste" after the Argentina match. It must be said that some of the bad taste came from inappropriate criticism from former coaches who must now quietly reassess their view of the objectives of the man in charge.

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FOOTBALL

Derby pay dearly for reckless lunge by Powell

Derby County 0
Liverpool 1

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

DERBY County's condemned Baseball Ground is a relic, an antiquity of British football, a place where one shudders at the danger of wooden and cramped stands. Yet it spells the warmth of the past. In that warmth, an afternoon of football can bring a community together, arouse communal spirit to fever pitch.

It did so on Saturday when the two outstanding elements of Derby County's defeat by Liverpool were very mixed blessings. Liverpool, who won through a marvellously opportunistic goal from Stan Collymore, scratched away at the game until they retrieved self-esteem after suffering such a dramatic FA Cup defeat at Chelsea. Derby, due to move to a new ground after this summer, sank another step towards the relegation mires, and did so because of an horrendous foul from Darryl Powell which, quite properly, reduced them to ten men for most of the second half.

When Powell ran ten yards towards the Norwegian Bjorn Kvarme, there was no credible excuse for his boot being raised so high that the studs clattered into the shin of the Liverpool player. Peter Jones, the referee from the Leicestershire village of Quorn, walked to the scene, established first of all the extent of the injury, and then did his duty in showing the red card to Powell.

Of course, it changed the game. Though both managers admitted we were not witnesses to many moments of high quality, only effort and denial, they had very different interpretations of Powell's action. Smith, normally the most honest and reliable of managers, gave himself half an hour to ruminate and then attempted to defend the indefensible.

He admitted Powell's tackle was foul. He admitted the boot was late and high. Yet, Smith railed: "To get a sending off, there has to be intent. I don't think the referee even saw it. In Italy they have full-time referees, accountable to a commission. Here, they are not accountable to anybody. With the amount of money swilling about in the game, we've got amateurs running around in the middle."

Even then, Smith compounded his outburst by stating that he thought Kvarme, in his third game for Liverpool, had "taken a dive".

Oh, dear. A manager under pressure, betrayed by the utter recklessness of his player, speaking so much unfounded claptrap. Can we wonder the Derby crowd — so imposingly close to the touchlines — spent the rest of the afternoon chanting: "cheat! cheat!"

As a precaution, the referee had a police escort from the field, and without reason or cause a man who, to my eye, had as good a game as any official all season, drove to his home as a vilified human being.

Full results and league tables .... Page 32

If Jones erred at all — and he showed yellow cards to Trollope and Van Der Laan, also to Bjornebye and McManaman for fouls — it may have been in giving Asanovic the benefit of the doubt when his forearm collided with the face of McAteer.

There were so many scruffy points of contact between two teams who aspire to playing football in the proper manner. Why should this be? The stadium at is intimidating. Liverpool were groping for form, for unity, for the freedom to express passing skills on a bare and bumpy pitch. And Derby are becoming prematurely desperate, their injury and suspension list undermining the team-building on a relative shoestring by the canny Smith.

Those are the excuses. The fact remains that Saturday's game was a grim and disfigured sporting contest. The heart of it was spelt out by Smith before the game. "What Chelsea did a week ago," he said, "shows that if you really get among Liverpool and don't allow them to play, then you stand a chance." Get among them is a euphemism for upping the tempo to the point of ferocity, for "putting the foot in", for motivating players until one of them, in this case Darryl Powell, oversteps the mark.

Liverpool, too, have been factious. McManaman and Barnes, the two guiding forces, had argued animatedly, yet their understanding was the fulcrum of Derby's downfall.

As the home team retreated into massed defence, the perceptive forward passes of Barnes, the fine anticipation of McManaman, began to suggest the inevitable. And when, in the 74th minute, Derby's defence was breached, it was indeed McManaman who laced together the move.

Three times he was on the ball, three times he passed, and, finally, though Fowler's attempted pass was mistimed, the ball fell kindly to Collymore. "Initially, I was going to hit it with my right foot," Collymore said afterwards. "But it came through a bit too quickly, so I checked back onto my left, and just hit it."

The man was uncharacteristically modest. His first touch with the right foot dragged the ball elegantly back, his second with the left foot curled it low into the inviting space between goalkeeper Hoult and the far post. A fine finish that surpassed the goalscorer's words.

If only others had understated rather than inflamed the situation.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hoult — J Laursen (sub: M Carbon, 24min; sub: S Flynn, 84), P McGrath, G Rowett — L Carsley, R van der Laan, P Trollope, A Asanovic, C Powell (sub: P Simpson, 84) — D Powell, D Sturridge.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — B Kvarme (sub: M Thomas, 75), M Wright, P Babb — J McAteer, J Redknapp, J Barnes, S1 Bjornebye — S McManaman — R Fowler, S Collymore.

Referee: P Jones.

Barmby tries to escape the attentions of Cooper, the Nottingham Forest defender. Photograph: Steve Morton/Allsport

Phelan escapes the worst of times

Everton 2
Nottingham Forest 0

BY OLIVER HOLT

IT WAS crowded in the Spellow House pub on Goodison Road an hour before kick-off, but the group of men in the middle of the room were oblivious to the drinkers pushing past them on their way to and from the bar. Lovingly, they were selecting an Everton team for their time, a Select XI that would grace a club that had just lost six straight Premiership games.

Dai Davies was in goal. Glenn Keeley, who was sent off on his Everton debut against Liverpool, was the pillar of defence. At left midfield there was Ian Wilson, one of Colin Harvey's follies, and at the fulcrum of the team they picked Geoff Nulty, once Gordon Lee's pride and joy. The forward line was led by two cult figures, Rod Belfitt and Bernie Wright.

It was the worst combination of former Everton players they could think of but none of the team that last lost half a dozen league games in succession back in the 1972-73 season made it into the line-up. Most of the players from Joe Royle's present team, a team that had slipped from contention for a place in Europe before Christmas to the fringe of the relegation battle, escaped selection, too.

Only Terry Phelan, the left back who has not had the most auspicious of starts since his move from Chelsea, was making a serious case for himself, apparently. So when the start of the game with Nottingham Forest on Saturday drew near, the inhabitants of the Spellow spilt into the streets and wandered over to the ground to see if he could clinch his place. It is "if-you-didn't-laugh-you-would-cry" time at Goodison Park again.

On Friday, Royle introduced a blanket ban on national newspaper journalists at the club's Bellefield training ground because he had become exasperated with the criticism he was receiving. Even a comfortable and well-deserved win against a parlous Forest team appeared to do little to raise the spirits. Royle spent part of the game glaring up at the press box and sent a messenger up after the 2-0 victory to say he was "too exhausted" to attend the post-match press conference. None of the Everton players would talk to the national press either.

"We printed a whole page of letters about the situation here earlier this week," Len Capeling, the sports editor of the *Daily Post* in Liverpool, said. "Out of 30, only about four were saying 'Royle must go'. Then, on Friday, we get the message that no one is going to be allowed to go to the training ground and all inquiries have to go through the Politburo instead."

Royle's reaction seems particularly counter-productive given that Everton are obviously a better team than their recent run of results suggests. They were stronger in all departments than their visitors, who looked drained of passion and verve, and their win moved them back into the top half of the table.

Phelan played himself comprehensively out of the Worst XI with a vibrant attacking display down the left flank, and Thomsen and Speed controlled midfield, allowing Barmby, Ferguson and Stuart to flourish in attack.

Ferguson, celebrating as though he had lifted the siege of Mafeking, set Everton on their way to their first Premiership points since December 21st by latching on to Stuart's flick, rounding Crossley and lashing a left-foot shot into the empty net two minutes after half-time.

Twenty minutes later, Ferguson rose to meet Unsworth's cross and when his header rebounded off the post, Barmby turned it into the roof of the net.

Back at the Spellow after the game, they were showing footage of Everton's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final victory over Bayern Munich in 1985 on the giant screen. The same group was back in the middle of the room united in the belief that Neville Southall would be a fixture in any Everton Best Select XI and in the corner a supporter was folding up a flag with two words written on it. "Royle In," it said.

EVERTON (4-3-1-2): P Gerrard — E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, T Phelan — J Parkinson, C Thomsen, G Speed — N Barmby — G Stuart, D Ferguson.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — D Phillips, C Bart-Williams, A I Haaland, I Woan, C Allan (sub: P McGregor, 61min) — K Campbell.

Referee: S Dunn.

Breen adds authority and poise in defence of Coventry

Sheffield Wednesday..... 0
Coventry City 0

BY PETER BALL

TWO weeks ago Alex Ferguson suggested that Gordon Strachan might need to rely on Ron Atkinson's experience in Coventry City's annual struggle against relegation. He may be right — but on Saturday the performances of Strachan's first two signings, Darren Huckerby and Gary Breen, suggest that Strachan has little to learn from his mentor in the transfer market.

Between them, Huckerby and Breen provided the highlights of a drab goalless draw, the second between the teams this season, but Strachan was satisfied — with West Ham United, Nottingham Forest and Southampton all losing, the point edged Coventry a further step towards safety.

There was less satisfaction for Sheffield Wednesday. Afterwards Strachan praised their technical skills and movement, but their tenth draw in 15 FA Carling Premiership games tells its own story. On Saturday, once Booth had wasted the best chance of the match after six minutes as Pembridge put him in, they never looked like scoring, for all their possession.

"We needed a goal," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said in exculpation. "If it had come in the first half, it would have been a completely different game."

They did not get it. Nor, with Hurst nowadays a blunt instrument and Humphreys unaccountably left on the bench, did they ever look likely to. Ogrizovic, usually Coventry's saviour, had only one shot to stop all afternoon.

Pressman was busier, as Huckerby twice forced him into sharp saves on explosive breaks before the interval. "It was difficult for us to concentrate against Huckerby's pace," Pleat said.

Huckerby could catch pigeons, as they say in south Yorkshire, but pace is not his only quality. Had he been in a Wednesday shirt, the result might have been very different. He is ever eager to take defenders on, and to shoot. After the interval another attempt cannoned off Walker to leave McAllister with the goal gaping, but the Coventry captain dragged the second-best chance of the match wide, leaving Wednesday to search unavailingly for a way through.

They didn't find it. Instead, long before the end, the main interest was enjoying the Premiership debut of Strachan's £2.5 million recruit from Birmingham City, Gary Breen, as the free man in the centre of Coventry's back three.

"You watch the Premiership on TV, and you wonder what it's going to be like," said Breen, an Ireland international as modest and articulate off the field as he is assured on it. "I've never played at this level before, so I was a bit anxious to see what it would be like. But I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Breen need not have worried. He took to the Premiership with the same assurance that he took to international football last year, bringing poise, composure and authority to the task — not qualities hitherto associated with the Coventry defence.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — S Nicol, D Walker, D Stefanovic, I Nolan — G Whittingham (sub: R Blinker, 71min), G Hyde, P Atherton, M Pembridge — D Hirst (sub: O Trustfull, 81), A Booth.

COVENTRY CITY (3-5-1-1): S Ogrizovic — R Shaw, G Breen, P Williams — P Telfer, K Richardson, G McAllister, N Whelan (sub: P Ndlovu, 81), M Hall — E Jess — D Huckerby.

Referee: M Bodenham.

United find scraps on top table

Manchester United......... 2
Southampton 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

A BLACKBOARD, wheeled on from stage left, would have finished off the job perfectly. An after-match press conference from Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is like one of those Open University programmes in which they hypothesize on the obvious until confusion reigns.

At least Ferguson eschews the customary tank top and presents his tactical analyses in a smart club blazer. He also has a fine sense of humour to season the stoicism. "Jesus Christ, they were really ambitious," was his stirring tribute to Southampton.

He spoke at great length of the on-field tactical manoeuvring, but the abridged version reads quite simply: that Southampton caught United on the back foot. They played two forwards when Ferguson expected one and Le Tissier and Berkovic were further upfield than expected. "They had a go and had us worried for a bit, I have to say that," he said. "They had a lot of attacking options and were breaking off us. I was glad to be in at half-time with the score at 1-1."

Southampton found United in hesitant mood before the interval. Poborsky continually dribbled himself to the corner flag. Beckham and Keane were so deep as to get under the feet of their own defenders, and several passes from Cantona sailed beyond their intended targets.

Southampton took the lead when a probing move on the right saw the ball threaded to Ostenstad. The Norwegian showed exquisite control and composure as he steered it beyond the stretching Schmeichel. Poborsky and Solskjaer brought fine saves from Taylor as United moved forward with menace. A corner fell to the chest of Pallister and he had time to bring the ball to his feet before poking it through a scrum of players into the goal. The equaliser was deserved, though the play was splintered and hectic.

Cantona: winner

An onslaught was expected after the interval and it duly arrived as United repeatedly tore into a tiring Southampton. Giggs dropped his shoulders, set his feet dancing and skipped blithely to the byline at every opportunity. Cantona's passes were now being read by his colleagues and Beckham moved within shooting range, which, for him, is a yard or two forward of the halfway line.

Taylor thwarted efforts by Beckham and Solskjaer, and Cantona headed wide when fed by Giggs. It was becoming manifest that, in all his plotting, Ferguson had forgotten to include a bone fide centre forward. Andy Cole replaced the disappointing Poborsky and was greeted like a long lost friend by the crowd. In truth, the welcome was coloured by desperation — United needed a saviour.

After the thrilling approach play of earlier, it was ironic that the winning goal should be a scrappy, indistinct affair. Giggs sent a low ball across the area and it bounced beyond ankles and knees, making its way finally to Cantona at the far post, and he gleefully prodded it into the net.

Southampton, on their only real attacking move of the second half, almost equalised when Maddison headed goalwards and Clegg blocked on the line.

Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, was pleased that his team had restored some dignity after losing to Stockport County in the Coca-Cola Cup three days earlier. "It was important to me that we put on some sort of show today and we did that," he said.

The victory, wrung out as it was by bloody-mindedness and only tantalising glimpses of fluid team play, has consolidated United's position at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. There will be other days when the football is poetic from start to finish, when goals fall like Manchester rain, but until then, three points wrestled from a bit of a scrap will more than suffice.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-2-1): P Schmeichel — M Clegg (sub: R Johnsen, 83min), G Neville, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, R Giggs — K Poborsky (sub: A Cole, 74), E Cantona — O G Solskjaer

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M Taylor — A Neilson, K Monkou, R Dryden, S Charlton (sub: M Robinson, 61) — E Berkovic (sub: D Hughes, 71), J Magilton, N Maddison, M Le Tissier — E Ostenstad, S Basham.

Referee: M Riley.

Waddle to accept Albion job

CHRIS WADDLE is expected to be named as the player-manager of West Bromwich Albion today, after meeting club officials to discuss terms last night. Waddle, 36, is under contract at Bradford City until the end of the season, but has never made a secret of his wish to move into management and was given permission to hold talks by Bradford.

Albion wanted to move quickly to replace Alan Buckley, dismissed 12 days ago, and Tony Hale, the chairman, decided to look for a high profile choice to build on the momentum of the club's recent successful flotation on the Alternative Investments Market. He was rebuffed by Bruce Rioch, the assistant manager at Queens Park Rangers.

Paul Ince is confident of being fit to play in England's World Cup qualifying tie against Italy next week, despite suffering a thigh injury while training with Internazionale on Saturday.

Paolo Maldini, the Italy captain, limped off during AC Milan's defeat by Sampdoria yesterday, but the extent of the injury is unknown.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

'If we get relegated, I expect to be sacked'

Bryan Robson on Emerson, Ravanelli and relegation

GASCOIGNE AT 40?

'I can't see him being a manager, and I don't know if you could trust him in the media'

Bobby Robson on Gazza

NEW LOOK

THE ESSENTIAL FOOTBALL MONTHLY
MARCH ISSUE ON SALE NOW

Chelsea's hot streak proves cold comfort for Vialli

Brian Glanville says sidelined Italian may become a *cause célèbre*

POOR Gerry Francis, Tottenham Hotspur's long-suffering manager, is becoming an increasingly Job-like figure. Not only was he unable to round up the usual suspects — Mabbutt, Armstrong, Vega, Sheringham, Scales — but also Chelsea went ahead in a mere 50 seconds with a freak of a goal.

"We obviously knew we'd have our work cut out today, in terms of the side we were able to put out," Francis said. "If you go behind in 50 seconds, I think that's the biggest disappointment. They get in front, they can sit back and get you on the break."

It all began with Gianfranco Zola's free kick, nicely situated for him just outside the penalty box. Usually he would strike for goal with one of those marvellous, swerving shots. Not this time. Instead, he swung the ball to the left, confusing Nethercott, enabling Newton to get in a header. Hughes closed in. Walker blocked the ball with his legs, only for it to bounce off his own defender, Campbell, and into the net.

"All your plans go straight out of the window when you go one down in 50 seconds," Francis said, but in truth, his plans seemed debatable. Three at the back, one of whom, Austin, was assigned to follow Zola, but no Ruel Fox till far too late in the game, even if, then, Fox was involved in Tottenham's late goal. A neat pass to Anderton, a cross from him, and a fine header by Howells.

Consistency may not be Fox's middle name but with Chelsea, as Francis said, able to pick and choose their moments after that traumatising goal, he might have done damage had he been used earlier, as he did against Blackburn for some 20 minutes, the previous Wednesday.

Anderton's case is different. When he arrived as a substitute, he looked a great deal sharper — not to say more aggressive — than he had on Wednesday, but as Francis said, he is not yet fit enough to last the 90 minutes.

Gianluca Vialli did not get on at all, despite his two goals last weekend against Liverpool. There is now, unquestionably, *un Caso Vialli*, a Vialli Case, though his manager, Ruud Gullit, spoke about it somewhat obscurely. "We have to stop all the time asking some questions. I have only two strikers, I can only play two," he insisted, even though three played against Liverpool.

Reminded that he had said the tactical choice had been left to his players, he told us that he had tried different tactics but "you could see how they play, they scream at each other, they were not comfortable. Then you come to the system that they play for a couple of weeks, and they are comfortable". Which will hardly comfort Vialli.

Most of the first half, after that goal, was a desert of mediocrity, but the game took wing seven minutes after half-time, with Roberto di Matteo's spectacular 25-yard goal. In the first half, he had sent a shot with his weaker left foot high and wide. Now, advancing on a retreating Tottenham defence, he tacked across from the right, to strike a thundering left-footer wide of Walker.

Twelve minutes later Zola perfectly put Hughes through, but Walker bravely blocked. Zola had the chance to put Tottenham out of their misery when Wise and Hughes set him up, but his technique deserted him. Gullit's remark, "I think that is also the great thing about football; if nobody makes mistakes, it would be an annoying game," seemed relevant and, as Disraeli said somewhat before, Gullit, "the defects of great men are the consolation of dunces."

Nine minutes later Tottenham could well have drawn level. Andy Sinton shot superbly from the left, but, as the ball flew towards the far corner, Hitchcock soared to make a remarkable save. It was a different Tottenham now: suddenly Chelsea were on the ropes. All very well for Gullit to say: "I think it makes no sense to talk about the last ten minutes, we won well." Goals, after all, are goals, and he would hardly have wished to forget the first 50 seconds, even if Francis might.

Howells headed in a minute after Sinton's shot and from that moment, the siege of Chelsea's goal was on: even if Tottenham's lack of a midfield creator remains embarrassingly plain. "I thought we could have got an equaliser," Francis said, "and I thought we were a bit unlucky."

No, they were not unlucky. Chelsea had done more than enough to win, had dominated most of the second half, and are now off for a sunny week in Cyprus. With or without Vialli?

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): I Walker — D Austin, S Campbell, S Nethercott (sub: C Wilson, 80min) — S Carr (sub: D Anderton, 58), D Howells, A Nielsen, A Sinton, J Edinburgh (sub: R Fox, 71) — R Allen, S Iversen

CHELSEA (3-5-2): K Hitchcock — F Leboeuf, S Clarke, F Sinclair — D Petrescu, D Wise, E Newton, R di Matteo, S Minto — G Zola (sub: E Johnsen, 88), M Hughes.

Referee: P Alcock.

FOOTBALL: BRAZILIAN TAKES CONTROL AS WIMBLEDON START TO PAY PRICE FOR SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Juninho excels in battle of opposites

Wimbledon	1
Middlesbrough	1

By Simon Barnes

AND in the end, of course, it was impossible to tell which were the pigs and which the men. This comes, of course, at the end of *Animal Farm*, and *it signifies* the end of the dream about the perfect society.

And Bryan Robson, the dreamer of Middlesbrough, seemed to have cast himself as Napoleon, the chief pig at the end of this gritty little vignette of footballing life. "We competed," he said, "really well."

So much for *perfection, so* much for the dreamer of dreams, so much for the *jogo bonito*. The man who brought the cream of Brazil's footballing culture to Middlesbrough and then raided Italy and *Serie A as* a bonus, was reduced to competing really well.

One of these bits of Brazil*ian dream-fodder is* Emerson, or Emma as Robson calls him. Much of the match revolved *around his* chest-to-chest battle with the Wimbledon love-object, Jones. They are both *men with a relish* for physical contact. The match never caught light as a spectacle because Emma would not let Vinnie play.

Well, it is as tenable a hypothesis *as* any, and Jones's long throws are as likely to bring a goal as any of Emerson's *forward* charges. *Essen*tially, this was a scrap, and you couldn't really tell the difference between the scrappers. Wimbledon carried on where they had left off, battling and doing well against clubs that have luxuries like a bank balance and a football ground to call their own and hordes of long-pocketed fans to fill it up with.

This was, in a sense, the *ultimate football match of the* season. Middlesbrough represent money and dreams. They are slaves to the ephemera of fashion, and enthral to the *concept* of football as the new rock and roll. Wimbledon are, of necessity, content with different values.

It would be *nice to call* Wimbledon's style of football the new heavy metal, but their myth of *simple-minded* brutality has been all but exploded by their success this season. *The fact behind this* splendidly antithetical pairing is that Wimbledon are consistently *more than the* sum of their parts; Middlesbrough, since Robson was allowed to give his wild dreams expression, are spectacularly and embarrassingly less.

Saturday showed that things are beginning to look a little different for Middles*brough.* Perhaps the best thing they had going for them was the absence of their top *scorer, Ravanelli. He* can play all right, but he spends all his time on the football field blaming *somebody* else for his misfortunes.

He was serving a suspension *on Saturday for* blaming a linesman. It seemed that, without his constant crucifixion gestures, normally *made* to everyone within sight who fails to be Italian, there was a more purposeful, *more* assured team on view.

It did not emerge until half-time, though. Wimbledon ran the show early on, Gayle creating mayhem wherever he went. It was his cross that set up the goal, Cox turning it in for an own goal that seemed to sum up Middlesbrough's *mis*erable season.

"Victims of our own success," Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, said. With good performances and replays *in both cup competi*tions, his team are playing an awful lot of football — six *matches in 15 days*, with the third part of their Manchester United trilogy tomorrow.

So, they tired in the second half and, when you are tiring and holding a one-goal lead, the one thing you do not need *is a manic little* Brazilian with fast feet, a cobra's mind and a serious appetite for the fray.

Juninho is no pansified exquisite. In fact, he seems to *like* this relegation struggle. It *is* certainly not beneath *his* dignity. He tore into weary Wimbledon and, unusually, they bent and buckled.

Juninho's energy and skill were too much even for the endless series of recovery tacklers. *He was incessantly* tearing in, playing his one-twos off Beck. Middlesbrough rained *balls* into the box, and one popped back out, apparently from Earle's hand. Emma took *it*, and *hit it* quite well, but Sullivan read it perfectly.

Under normal circumstances, Wimbledon would have made the game safe after such a let-off, but they were playing from memory. *Juninho played* yet *another* one-two off Beck and flicked a cross into the six-yard box. It might *have* gone in anyway, but Mustoe finished up.

The dreamers have been *forced to face* footballing reality, but Juninho was happy to go slumming for a point. This is the best possible news for them. Wimbledon's challenge for a league position worth a place in Europe seems to be over, but *they continue to add* to the gaiety of the season, as they always do. You can keep your rock and roll.

WIMBLEDON (3-1-4-2): N Sullivan — D Blackwell, C Perry, D Jupp — K Cunningham — A Kimble, V Jones, R Earle, N Ardley (sub: P Fear, 69min) — E Ekoku (sub: D Holdsworth, 59) . M Gayle (sub: J Goodman, 85)

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): B Roberts — S Vickers, G Festa, N Cox, C Fleming — P Stamp, Emerson, R Mustoe, A Moore — M Beck, Juninho.

Referee: G Barber.

Juninho, Middlesbrough's second-half inspiration, struggles to evade Cunningham. Photograph: Ady Kerry

Result at Derby proves point about backbone

STEVE McMANAMAN

I am conscious of the fact that columns such as this *one can* easily degenerate into a series of long moans, blaming easy targets such as the media. We got plenty of stick after our FA Cup defeat at Chelsea, and most of it was justified, so can I state now, *this is not simply a moan*.

I felt, though, that the criticism of Liverpool as having no backbone — *lacking the bottle* to win the title this season — was taking it too far. That is why I am so *pleased that* we won a very tricky match at Derby on Saturday, because it allowed us to prove a point.

Sure we played badly at Chelsea. But it was one game, *half a game in fact, where we* played badly, and yet people were saying we were finished. *They lumped together our FA* Cup defeat, the Coca-Cola Cup defeat by Middlesbrough, the fact that our reserves are bottom of their division and even that the youth team are out of their cup as evidence of a Liverpool malaise.

That is why it was so important to win at Derby. Critics have such short memories: you are as good as your last game and now our last game is a good win, not an embarrassing defeat.

It wasn't a great performance, but that isn't the point. At this stage *of the* season you have to string together results, get wins even when the team is not playing well. That is exactly what Manchester United did last season and the team that does it this time around will win the championship.

We believe at Liverpool that we are capable of doing it. That is why I am so pleased we proved a point at Derby, because I simply don't accept the suggestion that we are not good enough. Of course we are good enough, the first half against Chelsea proved that. The second was a disgrace, but *it is not an enduring problem* and, anyway, Chelsea played brilliantly.

We were resilient at Derby on a very poor pitch, in a stadium that is compact and *intimidating. We* knew we had to win because we all believed Manchester United would beat *Southampton, and we* didn't want to go into what will be a two-week break *trailing by a big points gap.*

The Premiership *seems* to have settled down over Christ*mas and now the top three* have opened up just a hint of a gap. There are others — *Newcastle, Villa — who I* believe still have a chance because there are so many *matches in which it is easy* enough to drop points, virtually every one.

But if one of the top three teams string together a run they are capable of, then the *others won't catch them. That* — I believe — is what will happen and our priority is to *ensure that it is Liverpool*.

Manchester United are the obvious danger, because they *have been there before. Yet it is* no guarantee of future success. So much is made of experience. *the ability to* cope with pressure, but again, I think it can be overstressed. You get two sides locked in a title race, and the one that comes second has "cracked under pressure".

That is what they said about Newcastle last season, but I'm not so sure. They lost plenty of games late in the season, but they had injuries, they came up against good teams, like us, on form. Their performance at Anfield when we managed *that exciting 4-3 victory did not* lack bottle.

What I think intensifies is not necessarily *the* pressure, but the focus on teams. Lose a game early in the season and there are plenty of opportunities to make up for it. Lose one late on, and that could be that. Of course that can make players anxious, inhibit them because they are aware of what is at stake, but that is what football is all about.

United have been there *and done it*, but our Liverpool team has plenty of players who have played *in the pressure* matches. John Barnes and Mark Wright have played in the World Cup finals, Michael Thomas has won the championship for his team with the last kick of *the game*.

There are a few of us who were involved in the European *championships, and even the* younger players like Robbie Fowler have experience. He *has already got 100 goals* for Liverpool — and I think that is enough experience for anybody.

What we have to show now is a little more consistency, a *little more resilience. Our* fans have not been happy over the last week. They were gutted by our performance at *Chelsea*, but so were we. We really wanted to get to Wembley because we did not do ourselves justice in the FA Cup Final last year. Now, we are *determined to prove ourselves* in the league instead.

Serbian enigma comes up trumps

Aston Villa	1
Sunderland	0

By Richard Hobson

THE cry of "Savo, Savo" rings out every weekend from grounds in the West Midlands. At all bar one it is a *term of mockery* that greets poor finishing, often a speculative attempt on goal that *drifts slowly* wide. *Thus has* Savo Milosevic invaded the football psyche.

Even at Villa Park, where the chant holds more friendly significance, supporters still *wonder whether* he is *suffi*ciently effective a partner for Dwight Yorke. Those are the *ones with broad minds, for* some still curse the day last November when *Milosevic's* planned move to Perugia broke down.

They *have* seen too many moments of individual brilliance to think that a single goal represents a turning point. If the supporters were celebrating on Saturday night it was because Aston Villa had secured their first FA Carling Premiership win of the year rather than the fact that the decisive goal, after 36 minutes, came from Milosevic.

He controlled *a goal* kick from Mark Bosnich and made a swift turn that immediately pointed him towards *the Sun*derland defenders who, perhaps in consideration of his reputation, backed away invit*ing the shot*. Once within range, Milosevic placed his effort, with the side of his left foot, to the *right of Lionel* Perez and the fact that the ball was deflected along the way did little to diminish the goal's quality.

Afterwards, Brian Little, the Villa manager, said that Milosevic, essentially a loner, has made a bigger effort to integrate with his team-mates since the Perugia experience, even joining that inner sanctum of footballers, the card school. Yet Little knows that further improvement is due.

"It took Dwight six years to adapt and become the player he is but Savo does not have *that long,"* Little *said*. "I need two players who can score regularly and he needs to be *more ruthless in front of* goal. On the training ground he is exceptional, so I know we have a very *good* player, *but* until he scores more often there will always be a question mark."

Twice *in the first half* Milosevic pushed intelligent return balls into the path of *Yorke that might have* resulted in further goals.

Sunderland, sturdy and res*olute but bereft of craft* up front, missed a chance to take the lead in the sixteenth minute when *Jan* Eriksson, making his debut, headed wide from a corner while Bosnich reacted *sharply to* tip a volley from John Mullin over the bar in the second half.

Little believes that his first-choice midfield of Mark Draper, Andy Townsend and Ian Taylor, all missing here, will be fit when Villa next see action. Whether Sasa Curcic *retains his place against such* competition is unclear, but at least one Serb will definitely feature.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, R Scimeca, C Tiler — F Nelson, G Southgate, S Curcic (sub: L Hendrie, 77min), S Staunton, A Wright — *S Milosevic*, D Yorke.

SUNDERLAND (3-5-2): L Perez — G Hall, J Eriksson, R Ord — D Kelly, D Williams, P Bracewell, M Gray (sub: C Russell, 85), D Kubicki (sub: M Smith, 58) — J Mullin, A Rae.

Referee: S Lodge.

The State of Play 33
Celtic stumble 33
Schools Sport 39

Defiant Redknapp full of Rio bravo

Blackburn Rovers	2
West Ham United	1

By David Maddock

GIVEN Harry Redknapp's penchant for the exotic, it is not surprising that West Ham United's best chance of survival in the FA Carling Premiership rests with a man called Rio. He is not, though, yet *another foreign mercenary*, but an 18-year-old from south-east London.

Rio Ferdinand was so named "because my mum and dad wanted me to stand out; they *didn't want me to be just* another dull bloke", and he has fulfilled their ambitions already. *He stood out at* Ewood Park, a hill-top beacon illuminating a desolate valley. West Ham were hopeless until they gave Ferdinand his head. After that, they worried a Blackburn Rovers side that had the game won into almost throwing it away.

Sent on after *the break*, Ferdinand scored an excellent goal after 64 minutes with a clean strike after Newell's *shot* was blocked. More than that, *his* vision and running, his *freshness, transformed* West Ham from the relegation certainties who surrendered *tamely in the first half, into* a competent, quick-breaking outfit that so nearly secured *the point their second-half* display deserved.

No wonder then, that *Redknapp, the West Ham* manager, believes Ferdinand offers so much hope for the future. "I have never been so certain about a player in all my career," he said. "He is a *monster*, and in a year's time he will be a real player.

"He is going straight to the *top and with kids like him* around we have got a chance, because we have got a few like *him. The problem is, it is next* year when they will come through, and we need to *survive this year.* We will though — I am certain we are going to turn it around."

Such confidence, however, is perhaps misplaced on the whole evidence of this game. *Rovers strolled to a two-goal* interval lead, and according to Slaven Bilic, the West Ham *defender, it could have been* many more. That it was not was largely down to the excellence of Bilic, and an obvious feeling among the Rovers players that the job was done by half-time. Gallacher scored from 25 yards on 36 minutes and, three minutes later, Sut*ton finished* well *after* Sherwood took a quick free kick.

Rovers will survive this *season for sure, even given* their alarming second-half negligence. As for West Ham, *that is not so certain, unless* their Rio angel smiles benignly down on them.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-2-1): T Flowers — J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux — T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, W McKinlay — K Gallacher, J Wilcox (sub: G Donis, 66min) — C Sutton.

WEST HAM UNITED (5-3-2): L Sealey — T Breacker, S Bilic, M Rieper, J Dicks, K Rowland (sub: S Lazaridis, 70) — I Bishop, M Hughes, D Williamson — M Newell, S Jones (sub: R Ferdinand, 46).

Referee: A Wilkie.

Graham drives home a point

Leeds United	0
Arsenal	0

By Keith Pike

THE team that he built gave a *performance that had him* misty-eyed with admiration: committed, obdurate, unbroken. *The team that he now* manages did not displease him, either, three times coming *within a linesman's flag of* victory. If there was a happier man on Saturday than *George Graham, he probably* would have been arrested for driving home the point with *excess euphoria*.

That few of the 35,000 souls who trooped silently away *from Elland Road seemed to* share his enthusiasm did not appear to concern him. Then *again, unlike Graham,* none of them plan to have "Nil-nil and proud of it" engraved on *their headstone*.

Graham makes no secret of the fact that he is striving to recreate the Highbury mon*ster, and the statistics prove* that he is succeeding. With Arsenal, minus the suspended *Bergkamp and with* Wright appearing only for the last 17 minutes, also reverting to no-*risk football, only connois*seurs of tackling, tantrums and tight marking would *have found anything to en*thuse about.

Enter Graham. "Terrific — *a lot closer than last time,*" he said. He had, he admitted, been "a wee bit humiliated" *when, within five minutes of* his return to Highbury with Leeds on October 26, his new *charges had been 2-0 down* and on their way to an FA Carling Premiership thrashing. A sequence of 11 clean sheets in 16 matches since suggests that it was not an experience he cared to repeat.

"They won at a canter then, but this time we had a go," Graham said, bridling at the suggestion that, had either side been prepared to commit players forward from the mid*field combat zone, the match* could have emerged from its stalemate; might even have been won. *Unthinkable*, obviously. "Do you want us to go all continental and pass the *ball to death without commit*ment?" Graham countered. "I have seen some boring games *in Europe, believe me*."

The teams meet again tomorrow in the FA Cup at *Highbury*, when Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, hopes a better surface — *the Elland Road pudding* was "the worst pitch I have seen in England" — will produce a more acceptable, technically proficient, game. It is probably wishful thinking: Graham has that gleam in his eye again as he goes in search of "defensive perfection".

LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): N Martyn — R Molenaar, G Halle, L Radebe — G Kelly, L Bowyer, R Wallace, M Jackson, A Dongo — B Deane (sub: A Gray, 88min), I Rush.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D Seaman — S Marshall, A Adams, S Bould — L Dixon, *R Parlour*, P Vieira, S Hughes, N Winterburn — P Merson, J Hartson (sub: I Wright, 73).

Referee: D Elleray

Kinkladze revels in forward motion

Oxford United	1
Manchester City	4

By Russell Kempson

SLOWLY, *but surely*, Frank Clark is *dragging* Manchester City out of the Nationwide League first *division* mire. At the Manor *Ground* yesterday, City *stretched* their unbeaten *sequence since* Clark's arrival as managerto five matches. *They moved* up to twentieth place, three points clear of the relegation pit, and appear to be settling *into* a *consistent*, confident groove.

Integral in City's best displays over the past two *sea*sons, *not* that there have been many, has been the form of Georgiou Kinkladze, the be*witching Georgian*. When he has flitted intermittently in midfield, eventually disappearing from view, *City's op*tions *inevitably* recede, too. Yet, when thrust further forward, as he has been by Clark, and *at his most* elusive, turning and twisting opponents in circles, City thrive. They thrived against an earnest *yet creatively* dull Oxford United.

Clark did his best to put the dampeners on his first league victory since *swapping* the City Ground, Nottingham, for Maine Road. "It was a reasonable display," *he said*. "It was *just what we* needed. The first task is to get away from the bottom and we are not away yet."

City do have some way to go before even thinking of reclaiming a place in the FA *Carling Premiership.* Clark has been in charge for only 36 days — three more than Steve Coppell, *one of the club's five* managers this season — and there *is* much *work to be done*. He knows it; the supporters know it.

Yet restoring *self-belief is* a prerequisite of any team-re-building and, in that department, Clark at least appears to have made progress. At times, *as City strung together a series* of slick passes, Oxford were made to look embarrassingly amateur. *Kinkladze, playing* in front of the midfield and behind Rösler, either initiated or concluded most of City's *most penetrative moves.* He swung over the corner for Gilchrist, the Oxford defender, *to head* into his own net in the 28th minute, and another of his corners led to Rösler jabbing in City's fourth goal two minutes from time.

In between, either side of the interval, he also scored twice, *taking his tally for the season* to ten. First, he set off on a typically darting run that ended with a delightfully guided *shot, left-footed*, past Whitehead. His *second*, *similarly* dispatched, arrived after Smith had been outwitted.

Oxford's solitary reply, from Moody in the 79th minute, was but a minor interruption in the general. Kinkladze-*inspired flow.* "Georgi *is* a world-class player and today showed what he can do," *Clark said*. "We gave *him the* ball in the right area and let him get on with it; and he did."

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Whitehead — L Robinson, P Gilchrist, M Ford, S Marsh (sub: R Ford, 53min) — J Beauchamp, M Gray (sub: M Murphy, 68), D Smith, M Angel (sub: P Moody, 68) — M Gabbiadini, N Jemson.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): T Wright — I Brightwell (sub: N Heaney, 45), K Symons, A Kernaghan, R Ingram — N Summerbee, S Lomas, E McGoldrick, K Horlock — G Kinkladze — U Rösler

Referee: A D'Urso.

Photograph 32

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 SUNDERLAND (0) 0
Milosevic 37 32,491

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate, R Scimeca, G Tiler, S Milosevic, D Yorke, S Curcic (sub: Hendrie, 76min)
Sunderland: L Perez, D Kubicki (sub: M Smith, 56min), G Hall, P Bracewell, A Rae, J Eriksson, M Gray (sub. C Russell, 83min), R Ord, D Kelly, J Mullin, D Williams.
Booked: Eriksson
Referee: S Lodge

BLACKBURN (2) 2 WEST HAM (0) 1
Gallacher 36 Ferdinand 84
Sutton 39 21,994

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, G Le Saux, K Gallacher, C Sutton, J Wilcox (sub G Donis: 66min) W McKinlay, H Berg, G Flitcroft
Booked: McKinlay.
West Ham United: L Sealey, T Breacker, J Dicks, D Williamson, I Bishop, M Rieper, K Rowland (sub. S Lazaridis, 69min), M Newell, S Jones (sub: F Ferdinand, 45min), M Hughes, S Bilic.
Booked: Rowland.
Referee: A Wilkie.

DERBY (0) 0 LIVERPOOL (0) 1
18,102 Collymore 75
Sent off: D Powell (Derby) 48

Derby County: R Hoult, L Carsley, J Laursen (sub: M Carbon, 25min, sub: P Simpson, 85min), P McGrath, G Rowett, C Powell (sub: S Flynn, 85min), P Trollope, R van der Laan, D Sturridge, D Powell, A Asanovic.
Booked: Van der Laan, Trollope.
Liverpool: D James, J McAteer, M Wright, B Kvarme (sub: M Thomas, 59min), P Babb, S-I Bjornebye, J Barnes, J Redknapp, S McManaman, S Collymore, R Fowler
Booked: Bjornebye, McManaman
Referee: P Jones

EVERTON (0) 2 NOTTM FOREST (0) 0
Ferguson 48 32,567
Barmby 67

Everton: P Gerrard, E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth, T Phelan, G Stuart, J J Parkinson, C Thomsen, G Speed, N Barmby, D Ferguson.
Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Bart-Williams, D Phillips, K Campbell, I Woan, C Allen (sub. P McGregor, 62min). A-I Haaland.
Booked: Lyttle, Phillips.
Referee: S Dunn.

LEEDS (0) 0 ARSENAL (0) 0
35,502

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, A Dorigo, L Radebe, R Wallace, I Rush, B Deane (sub: A Gray, 89min), L Bowyer, G Halle, M Jackson, R Molenaar
Booked: Bowyer, Molenaar, Kelly, Rush.
Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Vieira, S Bould, A Adams, P Merson, R Parlour, J Hartson (sub: I Wright, 73min), S Marshall, M Hughes.
Booked: Winterburn.
Referee: D Elleray.

MAN UTD (1) 2 SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1
Pallister 19 Ostenstad 11
Cantona 80 55,269

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, G Pallister, E Cantona, D Beckham, R Giggs, K Poborsky (sub A Cole, 74min), R Keane, O-G Solskjaer, M Clegg (sub: R Johnsen, 83min).
Booked: Poborsky.
Southampton: M Taylor, A Neilson, K Monkou, R Dryden, M Le Tissier, N Maddison, J Magilton, E Berkovic (sub: D Hughes, 71min), E Ostenstad, S Basham, S Charlton (sub M Robinson, 61min)
Booked: Dryden, Berkovic, Ostenstad, Le Tissier
Referee: M Riley.

SHEFF WED (0) 0 COVENTRY (0) 0
21,793

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, M Pembridge, D Walker, G Whittingham (sub: R Blinker, 71min), D Hirst (sub: O Trustfull, 81min), A Booth, G Hyde, S Nicol, D Stefanovic.
Booked: Trustfull
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, P Williams, K Richardson, E Jess, N Whelan (sub: P Ndlovu, 81min), G McAllister, P Telfer, M Hall, G Breen, D Huckerby.
Referee: M Bodenham.

TOTTENHAM (0) 1 CHELSEA (1) 2
Howells 83 Edinburgh 1 (og)
33,027 Di Matteo 53

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, J Edinburgh (sub: R Fox, 72min), D Howells, A Nielsen, S Nethercott (sub: C Wilson, *80min*), *S Iversen, S Campbell, S Carr (sub: D Anderton*, 56min), A Sinton, R Allen, D Austin.
Booked: Edinburgh; Anderton.
Chelsea: K Hitchcock, D Petrescu, F Leboeuf, S Clarke, D Wise, R Di Matteo, S Minto, F Sinclair, E Newton, G Zola (sub: E Johnsen, 88min). M Hughes.
Booked: Sinclair, Newton, Minto.
Referee: P Alcock.

WIMBLEDON (1) 1 MIDDLESBRO (0) 1
Cox 22 (og) Mustoe 75
15,046

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, D Blackwell, R Earle, E Ekoku (sub: D Holdsworth, 59min), M Gayle (sub. J Goodman, 85min), C Perry, N Ardley (sub: P Fear, 71min). D Jupp.
Booked: Festa, Moore, Emerson.
Middlesbrough: B Roberts, N Cox, S Vickers, Emerson, R Mustoe, M Beck, Juninho, A Moore, C Fleming, G Festa, P Stamp.
Referee: G Barber.

Yesterday

NEWCASTLE (1) 4 LEICESTER (0) 3
Elliott 3 Elliott 55
Shearer 77, 83, 90 Claridge 60
36,396 Heskey 68

Newcastle United: S Hislop, S Watson, R Elliott, P Albert, D Peacock, D Batty, R Lee, K Gillespie (sub: D Ginola, 68min), F Asprilla (sub: L Clark, 87min), A Shearer, L Ferdinand.
Booked: Lee, Batty.
Leicester City: K Keller, S Grayson, J Watts, S Prior, M Elliott, M Izzet, N Lennon, S Taylor (sub. J Lawrence, 82min), G Parker, S Claridge, E Heskey.
Booked. Elliott, Izzet, Taylor, Grayson.
Referee: M Reed.

Collymore: scored for Liverpool

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
I Wright (Arsenal)	17	5	2	24
A Shearer (Newcastle)	20	2	1	23
R Fowler (Liverpool)	12	6	3	21
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)	10	10	0	20
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	12	1	4	17
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	12	3	0	15
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	10	3	0	13
O-G Solskjaer (Man Utd)	11	0	1	12
C Sutton (Blackburn)	10	1	0	11
S Collymore (Liverpool)	8	2	1	11
E Ekoku (Wimbledon)	9	1	0	10
E Cantona (Man Utd)	8	0	2	10
M Gayle (Wimbledon)	8	2	0	10
G Vialli (Chelsea)	8	2	0	10
D Beckham (Man Utd)	7	1	2	10

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

TOMORROW: FA Cup: Third-round replay: Woking v Coventry (7.45). Fourth round: Arsenal v Leeds (8.0); Bolton v Chesterfield (7.45); Peterborough v Wrexham (7.45). *Fourth round replay: Wimbledon v Manchester United* (7.45). Nationwide League: First division: Birmingham v West Bromwich (7.45). Second division: Notts County v Bournemouth (7.45); Walsall v Blackpool (7.45). Third division: Cardiff v Scunthorpe; Colchester v Leyton Orient (7.45); Hereford v Darlington; Lincoln v Wigan; Mansfield v Chester (7.45); Rochdale v Scarborough. Auto Windscreens Shield: Second round: Northern section: Burnley v Stockport (7.45). Southern section: Northampton v Luton (7.45).

WEDNESDAY: FA Cup: Fourth round: Manchester City v Watford (7.45). Nationwide League: First division: Swindon v Queens Park Rangers (7.45).

FRIDAY: Nationwide League: First division: Charlton v Tranmere (7.45); Stoke v Oxford United (7.45). Second division: Bristol City v Stockport (7.45).

SATURDAY: Nationwide League: First division: Barnsley v Port Vale (3.0); Birmingham v Portsmouth (3.0); Crystal Palace v Bradford (3.0); Huddersfield v Wolverhampton (3.0); Ipswich v Queens Park Rangers (3.0); Manchester City v Southend (3.0); Oldham v Grimsby (3.0); Reading v *Bolton (3.0); West Bromwich v Swindon (3.0). Second* division: Blackpool v Peterborough (3.0); Brentford v Watford (3.0); Burnley v York (3.0); Bury v Bournemouth (3.0); Chesterfield v Wrexham (3.0); Gillingham v Bristol Rovers (3.0); Luton v Plymouth (3.0); Rotherham v Preston (3.0); Shrewsbury v Notts County (3.0); Walsall v Millwall (3.0); Wycombe v Crewe (3.0). Third division: Barnet v Hereford (3.0); Brighton v Hartlepool (3.0); Cambridge United v Hull (3.0); Cardiff v Colchester (3.0); Chester v Doncaster (3.0); Exeter v Rochdale (3.0); Lincoln v Fulham (3.0); Northampton v Swansea (3.0); Scarborough v *Darlington (3.0); Scunthorpe v Mansfield (3.0); Torquay v* Leyton Orient (3.0); Wigan v Carlisle (3.0).

SUNDAY: Nationwide League: First division: Sheffield United v Norwich (1.0).

F.A. CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	25	9	3	1	26	10	5	5	2	24	18	50	+22
2 Liverpool	25	7	5	1	26	10	7	2	3	16	10	49	+22
3 Arsenal	25	8	4	0	29	11	5	4	4	15	12	47	+21
4 Newcastle	25	9	2	2	38	16	4	4	4	12	14	45	+20
5 Chelsea	24	6	5	1	22	14	5	3	4	16	19	41	+5
6 Wimbledon	23	6	4	1	20	12	5	2	5	16	16	39	+8
7 A Villa	25	7	3	3	19	10	4	3	5	13	15	39	+7
8 Sheff Wed	24	4	7	1	11	8	4	4	4	15	19	35	-1
9 Everton	25	5	2	5	19	14	3	5	5	15	24	31	-4
10 Tottenham	24	5	3	5	15	14	4	1	6	12	19	31	-6
11 Leeds	25	5	3	5	12	12	3	3	8	9	15	30	-6
12 Sunderland	25	5	5	2	13	8	2	3	8	10	24	29	-9
13 Blackburn	24	5	2	4	15	11	1	7	5	11	14	27	+1
14 Leicester	24	4	3	5	12	17	3	3	6	13	18	27	-10
15 Coventry	25	3	4	5	12	15	3	5	5	11	18	27	-10
16 Derby	24	4	3	4	11	11	1	7	5	11	19	25	-8
17 Nottm F	25	3	5	5	11	18	2	3	7	12	22	23	-17
18 West Ham	24	4	3	6	13	17	1	4	6	7	15	22	-12
19 Southmptn	23	4	3	4	20	13	1	2	9	12	28	20	-9
20 Middlesbro	24	4	4	4	21	18	1	3	8	9	26	19	-14

†Middlesbrough have been deducted three points

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BOLTON (1) 2 BIRMINGHAM (0) 1
Pollock 29 Devlin 56
McGinlay 78 (pen) 16,737
Sent off: M Grainger (Birmingham) 77

BRADFORD (1) 1 HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1
Waddle 40 Crosby 1
17,373

GRIMSBY (1) 2 CHARLTON (0) 0
Mendonca 25 (pen) 4,139
Lester 52
Sent off: M Kinsella (Charlton) 45
R Rufus (Charlton) 26

NORWICH (0) 1 BARNSLEY (1) 1
Eadie 89 Eaden 18
17,001
Sent off: R Fleck (Norwich) 44

PORT VALE (1) 2 WEST BROM (1) 2
Naylor 23, 82 Peschisolido 7, 61
8,093

PORTSMTH (1) 1 OLDHAM (0) 0
Hall 7 *9,135*
Sent off: C Fleming (Oldham) 75

QPR (0) 0 C PALACE (1) 1
16,467 Hopkin 22

SOUTHEND (0) 0 IPSWICH (0) 0
7,332

SWINDON (0) 2 SHEFF UTD (0) 1
Elkins 57 Holdsworth 80
Holdsworth 70 (og) 8,611

TRANMERE (1) 2 READING (1) 2
Branch 14 Morley 21, 47
Moore 72 6,019

WOLVRHMPTN (1) 2 STOKE (0) 0
Bull 16, 55 27,408

Yesterday

OXFORD UTD (0) 1 MAN CITY (2) 4
Moody 80 Gilchrist 28 (og)
8,824 Kinkladze 33, 65
Rosler 88

SECOND DIVISION

BOURNEMTH (0) 0 BLACKPOOL (0) 0
8,201

BRISTOL R (0) 2 SHRWSBURY (0) 0
Browning 60 4,924
Beadle 75

CREWE (0) 1 BURNLEY (0) 1
Macauley 50 Barnes 88
4,734

MILLWALL (0) 0 BRISTOL CITY (1) 2
9,158 Goater 15 (pen), 63

NOTTS CO (0) 1 LUTON (0) 2
Richardson 62 Hughes 66
5,025 Alexander 88

PETERBORO (0) 0 WALSALL (0) 1
4,940 Watson 90

PLYMOUTH (0) 0 WYCOMBE (0) 0
5,024

PRESTON (0) 0 CHESTRFLD (0) 1
8,681 Morris 78

STOCKPORT (0) 1 BRENTFORD (0) 2
Cavaco 47 McGhee 56
8,650 Taylor 76

WATFORD (0) 2 ROTHERHAM (0) 0
Bazeley 50 10,657
Slater 65

WREXHAM (1) 1 GILLINGHAM (0) 1
Connolly 45 Akinbiyi 60
5,193

YORK (0) 0 BURY (1) 2
3,433 Jackson 18
Jepson 75

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (0) 2 NORTHMPTN (0) 1
Conway 47, 60 Lee 77
5,271
Sent off: I Clarkson (Northmptn) 59

DARLINGTON (3) 5 LINCOLN (0) 2
Oliver 24 Ainsworth 80, 83
Kelly 26 2,265
Roberts 29, 75
Brumwell 88

DONCASTER (0) 1 SCUNTHRPE (0) 1
Cramb 79 Baker 75
3,022

HARTLPOOL (1) 1 SCARBORO (0) 0
Cooper 11 1,843

HEREFORD (2) 3 WIGAN (1) 1
Foster 23 Rogers 31
Beeston 43 2,532
Fishlock 48

HULL (0) 1 CHESTER (0) 0
Gordon 77 2,513

L ORIENT (0) 1 EXETER (0) 1
Winston 65 Rowbotham 49
3,686

MANSFIELD (1) 1 BRIGHTON (1) 1
Doolan 38 Mundee 33
2,456

ROCHDALE (0) 1 BARNET (0) 1
Russell 90 Simpson 58
1,623
Sent off: K Hill (Rochdale) 39
S Devine (Barnet) 39

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Colchester United 2 *Torquay United 0*; Fulham 1 Cardiff City 4; Swansea City 3 Cambridge United 1

GOALSCORERS

FIRST DIVISION: 23: McGinlay (Bolton) 21: Sheron (Stoke). 20: Blake (Bolton) 18: Jemson (Oxford United) 17: Aldridge (Tranmere), Payton (Huddersfield). 16: Bull (Wolverhampton); Morley (*Reading*) 15: Naylor (Port Vale) 14: Devlin (Birmingham). 13: Mendonca (Grimsby); Hopkin (Crystal Palace), Forster (Birmingham, 13 for Brentford); Dyer (Crystal Palace).

SECOND DIVISION: 19: Thorpe (Luton) 18: Asaba (Brentford). 17: Stevens (*Shrewsbury*) 15: Barnes (Burnley); Goater (Bristol City); Angell (Stockport) 14: Adebola (Crewe)

THIRD DIVISION: 21: Baker (Scunthorpe, 7 for Torquay) 20: Conroy (Fulham); Jones (Wigan). 17: Ainsworth (Lincoln)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ABERDEEN (2) 2 KILMARNCK (0) 1
Windass 20, 24 McIntyre 49
8,000

DUNDEE UTD (0) 1 CELTIC (0) 0
McSwegan 89 12,600

DUNFRLNE (2) 3 MOTHERWLL (1) 1
Millar 11 Van Der Gaag 17
Tod 26 4,795
Britton 76

HIBERNIAN (1) 1 RAITH (0) 1
Grant 13 Lennon 69
9,424

RANGERS (0) 0 HEARTS (0) 0
50,024

FIRST DIVISION

CLYDEBANK (1) 1 AIRDRIE (1) 1
Teale 1 Eadie 9
450

FALKIRK (0) 1 DUNDEE (0) 1
Ward 48 O'Driscoll 90
2,502

PARTICK (2) 3 EAST FIFE (0) 1
Mackay 14 MacFarlane 54
Moss 38 1,900
Lyons 89

ST JOHNSTN (0) 1 G MORTON (0) 0
Ferguson 80 3,625

ST MIRREN (1) 1 STIRLING (2) 3
Hetherston 33 (pen) Hjartarson 14
3,760 Bone 30
Tait 81

SECOND DIVISION

AYR (0) 1 LIVINGSTON (0) 0
Kerrigan 69 2,568

BERWICK (2) 2 STRANRAER (0) 0
Neil 19 (pen) 302
McParland 36
Sent off: M Laidler (Berwick) 78

CLYDE (1) 3 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0
Annand 33, 52 706
Gibson 50

HAMILTON (3) 4 DUMBARTON (0) 0
Ritchie 5, 33, 43, 53 505

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 2 BRECHIN (1) 1
Nesovic 74 Brown 29
Bryce 88 819

THIRD DIVISION

ALLOA (0) 0 FORFAR (2) 3
427 Honeyman 20, 29
Loney 80

ARBROATH (0) 0 QUEEN'S PARK (0) 0
361

COWDNBTH (0) 2 EAST STIRLING (0) 0
Wood 61, 83 174

MONTROSE (0) 0 INVERNESS CT (1) 2
520 McLean 40
Stewart 89 (pen)

ROSS CO (1) 3 ALBION (1) 1
Ross 4, 59 Gardner 16 (pen)
Adams 86 1,146

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

BATH (0) 0 SOUTHPORT (1) 2
531 Whittaker 30
Gamble 49
Sent off: A Scott (Bath) 45

BROMSGROVE (2) 3 HALIFAX (0) 0
Mauwarong 10, 45 686
Crisp 58
Sent off: P Stoneley (Halifax) 41

DOVER (0) 0 KETTERING (0) 1
966 Slawson 76

HAYES (0) 0 MACCLSFLD (1) 2
684 Howarth 17
Power 71 (pen)

HEDNESFORD (2) 2 WOKING (0) 0
Russell 38 2,368
Lake 44

NORTHWICH (1) 2 ALTRNCHM (0) 2
Walters 42 Harris 73
Steele 73 Doherty 84
1,292

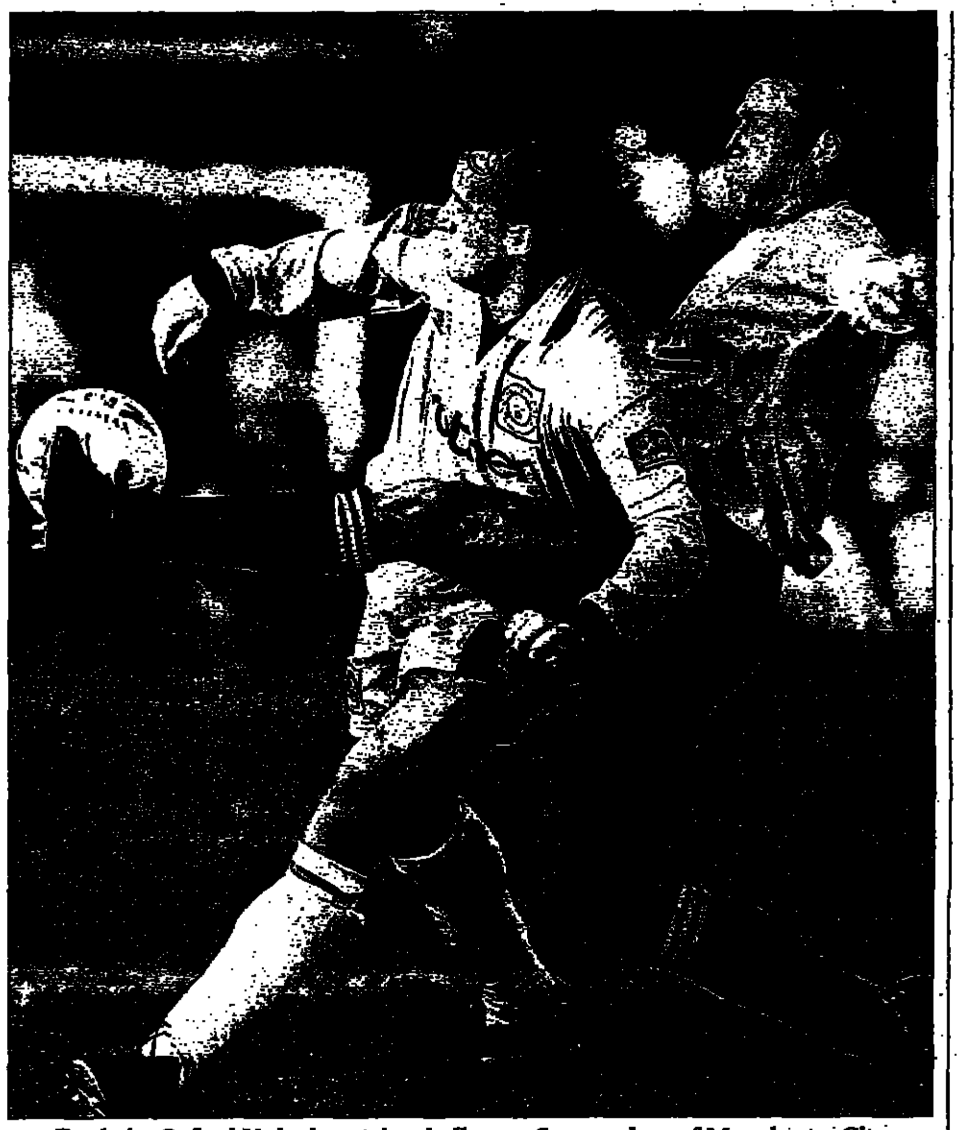
RUSHDEN & D (0) 2 MORECAMBE (0) 1
Leaworthy 71 Udall 51
Cramman 77 2,145

SLOUGH (0) 0 GATESHEAD (0) 1
638 Thompson 82

STALYBRIDGE (0) 2 FARNBOROUGH (0) 0
Burke 50 817
Trott 84

WELLING (1) 2 STEVENAGE (0) 0
Morah 44 1,078
Dennis 90

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Kiddmnstr	29	11	2	3	38	15	8	3	2	23	9	62
2 Macclsfd	27	8	3	2	16	7	8	4	2	21	7	55
3 Stevenage	25	9	2	1	34	14	5	3	5	18	18	47
4 Northwch	29	9	3	3	22	12	4	5	5	16	22	47
5 Morecambe	26	7	2	3	23	13	6	3	5	24	20	44
6 Woking	25	7	4	2	30	16	4	4	4	17	17	41
7 Farnborough	25	5	4	2	24	21	6	4	2	16	9	41
8 Hednesfd	23	7	4	2	18	6	4	3	3	15	14	40
9 Slough	30	6	6	5	34	22	4	3	7	13	22	38
10 Stalybridge	27	7	1	5	22	14	4	3	7	14	21	37
11 Telford	30	5	5	6	18	25	5	2	7	15	30	37
12 Southport	24	6	3	4	18	17	4	3	4	13	15	36
13 Altrnchm	27	5	2	7	15	19	3	6	4	17	26	32
14 Welling	24	6	2	4	16	15	2	5	5	17	23	31
15 Kettering	25	4	3	4	16	11	4	1	9	15	25	29
16 Gateshead	26	3	3	6	19	19	4	4	6	17	24	28
17 Hayes	26	5	5	5	15	16	2	2	7	12	30	28
18 Bromsgrove	29	5	3	5	23	17	3	1	12	9	28	28
19 Halifax	25	5	3	5	19	22	2	4	6	11	24	28
20 Rushden	25	3	5	4	15	16	3	2	8	19	26	25
21 Dover	27	3	6	3	17	20	2	4	9	16	30	25
22 Bath	28	4	3	5	11	15	0	5	11	14	43	20



Ford, the Oxford United captain, challenges Summerbee, of Manchester City during their Nationwide League match yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bologna 6 Verona 1; AC Milan 2 Sampdoria 3; Perugia 0 Internazionale 0; Cagliari 0 Juventus 0; Parma 1 Piacenza 0; AS Roma 2 Vicenza 0; Reggiana 1 Napoli 1; Udinese 2 Lazio 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	19	10	7	2	26	13	37
Sampdoria	19	10	5	4	40	25	35
Bologna	19	9	4	6	32	23	31
Vicenza	19	8	6	5	30	22	30
Internazionale	19	7	9	3	26	21	30
Parma	19	8	6	5	19	15	30
Napoli	19	7	7	5	24	25	28
Roma	19	7	6	6	28	23	27
Atalanta	18	7	6	5	24	22	27
Fiorentina	18	6	8	4	27	20	26
Lazio	19	7	5	7	22	20	26
Milan	19	7	4	8	27	28	25
Udinese	19	6	5	8	27	29	23
Piacenza	19	4	8	7	16	24	20
Perugia	19	5	4	10	23	36	19
Cagliari	19	3	7	9	20	32	16
Verona	19	3	5	11	21	38	14
Reggiana	19	1	8	10	16	32	11

SPANISH LEAGUE: Celta Vigo 1 Atlético Madrid 1; Compostela 1 Tenerife 1; Logrones 1 Zaragoza 2; Sevilla 2 Real Sociedad 3; Valencia 1 Racing Santander 1; *Sporting Gijón 4 Español 3*; Barcelona 2 Oviedo 2; Valladolid 4 Rayo Vallecano 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 Betis 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	21	14	7	0	43	14	49
Barcelona	22	14	5	3	62	28	47
Betis	21	12	6	3	45	20	42
Real Sociedad	22	12	4	6	33	25	39
Deportivo	21	10	9	2	28	13	39
Atlético Madrid	21	10	6	5	40	28	36
Valladolid	22	9	6	7	29	25	33
Athletic Bilbao	22	8	8	5	38	28	32
Racing S	22	7	10	5	23	22	31
Tenerife	21	8	6	7	35	23	30
Valencia	22	8	5	9	30	29	29
Oviedo	22	7	6	9	28	29	27
Sporting Gijón	21	6	7	8	23	29	25
Celta	22	6	7	9	22	29	25
Compostela	22	6	6	10	21	38	24
Español	22	6	5	11	27	31	23
Rayo Vallecano	21	6	5	10	23	32	23
Logrones	22	6	3	13	17	46	21
Sevilla	21	5	3	13	17	31	18
Zaragoza	22	3	9	10	23	38	18
Hercules	21	5	3	13	19	40	18
Extremadura	21	3	6	12	13	35	15

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Setubal 1 FC Porto 3; Sporting 4 Espinho 0.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Lens 2 Guingamp 1; Auxerre 1 Nancy 0; Nice 0 Marseilles 0; Rennes 1 Caen 1; Paris Saint-Germain 1 Cannes 1; Metz 0 Nantes 1; Le Havre 0 Montpellier 0; Lille 0 Bordeaux 0

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Club Brugge 2 Genk 1; Mouscron 1 Cercle Brugge 1; Aalst 1 Ghent 0; Ekeren 3 Sint Truiden 1, Molenbeek 1 Standard Liege 1; Lokeren 0 Anderlecht 1; Lommel 1 Antwerp 0; Mechelen 2 Harelbeke 1; Charleroi 1 Lierse 1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: China 1 United States 1 (in Guangzhou).

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Bolton	31	12	3	1	36	14	6	7	2	29	25	64	(65)
2 Wolvrhmptn	30	7	3	5	20	14	8	4	2	22	14	52	(42)
3 Barnsley	29	8	3	3	28	14	6	6	3	22	21	51	(50)
4 Sheff Utd	30	7	5	3	28	16	7	3	5	22	17	50	(50)
5 Norwich	30	7	7	2	20	11	6	0	8	21	31	46	(41)
6 C Palace	29	6	3	4	25	13	5	7	4	28	19	43	(53)
7 Tranmere	30	8	4	4	31	22	4	3	7	11	17	43	(42)
8 Port Vale	31	4	8	4	24	21	6	5	4	14	14	43	(38)
9 Stoke	29	9	1	4	21	16	3	6	6	16	24	43	(37)
10 QPR	30	6	4	6	22	19	5	5	4	21	23	42	(43)
11 Portsmth	31	8	3	5	21	16	4	3	8	14	21	42	(35)
12 Ipswich	30	6	6	2	28	17	4	5	7	15	22	41	(41)
13 Oxford Utd	30	9	3	3	27	13	2	4	9	14	25	40	(41)
14 Huddersfld	31	8	4	3	23	12	2	6	8	14	30	40	(37)
15 Swindon	30	8	4	3	30	16	3	1	11	12	24	38	(42)
16 Birmingham	27	7	4	1	18	6	2	6	7	12	21	37	(30)
17 West Brom	30	3	7	5	25	24	4	7	4	21	28	35	(46)
18 Charlton	29	6	4	4	18	16	4	1	10	12	24	35	(30)
19 Reading	30	7	6	2	23	16	1	4	10	14	30	34	(37)
20 Man City	29	6	3	5	17	18	3	2	10	16	27	32	(33)
21 Bradford	31	6	5	5	18	22	1	5	9	11	24	31	(29)
22 Southend	30	5	6	4	22	21	1	5	9	6	31	29	(28)
23 Oldham	28	3	5	5	14	16	3	5	7	16	19	28	(30)
24 Grimsby	29	4	4	8	19	28	2	5	6	16	25	27	(35)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Brentford	29	6	8	0	23	13	9	2	4	24	15	55	(47)
2 Luton	27	10	2	2	25	6	5	4	4	20	21	51	(45)
3 Bristol City	29	9	3	3	31	12	4	5	5	16	18	47	(47)
4 Crewe	28	11	1	2	29	8	4	1	9	12	23	47	(41)
5 Burnley	30	11	1	4	32	17	2	5	7	12	17	45	(44)
6 Bury	26	8	4	0	21	5	4	5	5	18	21	45	(39)
7 Chestrfld	27	7	3	2	14	9	6	3	6	11	11	45	(25)
8 Stockport	27	7	4	3	18	10	5	4	4	20	20	44	(38)
9 Millwall	29	9	2	4	21	16	3	6	5	16	22	44	(37)
10 Watford	27	5	7	2	13	10	5	7	1	15	10	44	(28)
11 Wrexham	26	7	5	1	24	17	3	6	4	11	14	41	(35)
12 Walsall	27	8	4	2	21	10	3	2	8	11	20	39	(32)
13 Shrewsbury	30	6	5	5	20	21	3	4	7	19	28	36	(39)
14 Blackpool	28	5	6	2	20	12	3	5	7	12	18	35	(32)
15 Bournemth	30	5	4	6	14	16	4	4	7	12	18	35	(26)
16 Bristol R	29	7	4	3	22	15	1	6	8	7	18	34	(29)
17 Preston	29	7	4	4	19	15	2	2	10	10	20	33	(29)
18 Gillingham	29	6	3	5	22	18	2	5	8	9	21	32	(31)
19 Plymouth	29	4	8	3	14	16	3	3	8	17	26	32	(31)
20 York	28	5	3	5	16	17	3	3	9	12	27	30	(28)
21 Peterboro	28	3	6	5	28	24	3	5	6	13	22	29	(39)
22 Wycombe	28	6	2	6	13	13	1	4	9	13	28	27	(26)
23 Notts Co	28	3	5	5	13	13	2	4	9	8	22	24	(21)
24 Rotherham	28	4	5	6	13	16	0	4	9	11	28	21	(24)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Fulham	30	9	2	4	29	15	9	3	3	24	13	59	(53)
2 Carlisle	28	10	2	2	24	12	6	6	2	19	14	56	(43)
3 Wigan	28	10	1	2	29	13	6	4	5	21	21	53	(50)
4 Swansea	31	10	3	3	25	10	5	3	7	15	22	51	(40)
5 Cambs Utd	30	9	2	3	23	15	6	3	7	18	24	50	(41)
6 Northmptn	30	10	3	3	33	12	3	4	7	18	20	46	(49)
7 Colchester	30	7	7	1	27	14	3	8	4	17	18	45	(44)
8 Cardiff	29	8	1	6	23	18	5	3	6	12	17	43	(35)
9 Lincoln	30	6	7	2	20	14	5	1	9	21	33	41	(41)
10 Scarboro	29	6	7	3	20	18	4	4	5	17	17	41	(37)
11 Torquay	29	9	1	5	18	11	3	3	8	13	22	40	(31)
12 Hull	30	6	6	3	18	17	3	7	5	10	15	40	(28)
13 Mansfield	29	5	5	4	13	9	4	7	4	18	19	39	(31)
14 Chester	28	8	5	3	17	12	4	4	6	11	19	39	(28)
15 Scunthrpe	28	8	1	6	29	24	3	4	6	14	19	38	(43)
16 Hartlpool	30	5	5	5	21	22	5	1	9	13	18	36	(34)
17 Barnet	29	5	7	2	18	10	3	5	7	9	17	36	(27)
18 L Orient	30	7	5	3	17	9	2	4	9	10	20	36	(27)
19 Rochdale	27	6	3	4	17	12	2	7	5	14	21	34	(31)
20 Exeter	30	5	4	6	16	17	3	3	9	13	26	31	(29)
21 Darlington	29	6	4	5	26	20	2	2	10	15	33	30	(41)
22 Doncaster	30	5	3	6	16	16	3	2	11	17	32	29	(33)
23 Hereford	30	5	3	7	19	17	3	2	10	12	28	29	(31)
24 †Brighton	30	4	5	5	21	20	1	2	13	8	31	20	(29)

†Brighton have been deducted two points

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	25	11	2	0	38	9	8	2	2	27	12	61	+42
2 Celtic	25	10	1	1	38	8	7	2	4	23	17	54	+36
3 Dundee Utd	25	7	3	3	16	7	5	3	4	18	14	42	+13
4 Hearts	25	4	4	4	17	16	5	3	5	18	19	34	0
5 Aberdeen	25	5	4	4	20	16	4	3	5	16	23	34	-3
6 Dunfrline	25	6	2	5	23	23	3	3	6	15	25	32	-10
7 Hibernian	25	3	3	7	10	20	3	3	8	16	23	24	-17
8 Kilmarnck	25	5	2	5	20	21	2	1	10	9	27	24	-19
9 Motherwell	25	4	2	6	14	18	2	4	7	12	27	24	-19
10 Raith	25	2	3	7	13	24	3	2	8	8	20	20	-23

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 St Johnstn	24	9	3	1	29	5	8	1	2	25	9	55	+40
2 Dundee	25	7	1	4	18	9	4	7	2	18	15	41	+12
3 Partick	25	5	7	1	21	11	6	3	4	20	16	40	+14
4 Airdrie	24	3	6	3	16	14	6	5	1	20	10	38	+12
5 St Mirren	23	7	0	5	18	17	4	5	2	18	13	38	+6
6 Falkirk	24	5	5	1	16	8	4	2	7	7	14	34	+1
7 G Morton	24	5	4	3	15	13	3	2	7	13	14	30	+1
8 Stirling	25	4	3	6	16	21	2	4	6	17	28	25	-14
9 Clydebank	23	5	2	3	12	12	0	3	10	7	24	20	-17
10 East Fife	25	1	3	9	12	39	0	2	10	4	32	8	-55

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Ayr	22	8	1	3	20	11	7	2	1	17	10	48	+16
2 Livingston	22	9	3	0	22	7	4	3	3	13	11	45	+17
3 Hamilton	21	7	1	2	28	10	5	3	3	16	9	40	+24
4 Clyde	22	5	3	4	13	13	4	5	1	15	8	35	+7
5 Stenhsmuir	23	3	4	5	11	12	5	3	3	20	10	31	+9
6 Queen Of S	22	5	2	3	15	17	2	3	7	17	25	26	-10
7 Brechin	22	3	4	3	13	14	2	4	6	12	17	23	-6
8 Stranraer	22	3	3	4	11	12	3	2	7	10	20	23	-11
9 Dumbarton	23	1	6	5	14	22	4	0	7	12	21	21	-17
10 Berwick	23	2	2	7	11	25	0	4	8	12	27	12	-29

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Inverness CT.	21	8	2	1	20	8	5	3	2	19	14	44	+17
2 Forfar	21	5	3	2	19	12	6	2	3	25	16	38	+16
3 Ross Co	22	4	3	3	18	16	7	1	4	19	13	37	+8
4 Alloa	20	5	3	3	16	16	4	2	3	13	12	32	+3
5 Montrose	22	5	2	5	17	20	4	1	5	16	18	30	-5
6 Cowdnbth	22	4	3	3	14	12	4	1	7	13	15	28	0
7 Albion	21	5	3	3	15	13	2	4	4	10	13	28	-1
8 Queen's Pk	23	4	3	4	16	18	1	5	6	13	19	23	-8
9 Arbroath	21	4	3	5	11	15	0	4	5	6	16	19	-14
10 East Stirling	21	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Marine 0; Bamber Bridge 1 Hyde 4; Bishop Auckland 3 Gainsborough 3, Boston 3 Barrow 5, Chorley 1 Emley 2; Colwyn Bay 1 Alfreton 1; Frickley 1 Witton 2; Guiseley 2 Blyth Spartans 1, Knowsley 2 Spennymoor 2; *Lancaster 0 Leek 3, Runcorn 1 Buxton 1*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	31	17	6	8	51	32	57
Leek Town	26	17	5	4	47	23	56
Hyde Utd	28	14	11	3	61	33	53
Guiseley	29	14	6	9	44	34	48
Blyth Spartans	28	14	5	9	45	28	47
Boston Utd	25	13	7	5	48	28	46
Emley	27	12	8	7	50	37	44
Marine	26	11	10	5	31	26	43
Gainsborough	25	12	5	8	42	26	41
Bishop A'land	24	10	10	4	40	23	40
Accrington S	29	10	8	11	48	50	38
Runcorn	26	9	10	7	39	40	37
Knowsley	29	10	8	11	44	57	37
Chorley	29	10	6	13	45	44	36
Winsford Utd	29	9	9	11	39	40	36
Colwyn Bay	29	8	9	12	41	48	33
Frickley	25	8	6	11	44	53	30
Spennymoor	26	7	8	11	38	35	29
Lancaster	22	5	5	12	24	41	20
Witton Alb	26	4	8	14	24	50	20
Alfreton Town	26	3	10	13	27	50	19
Bamber Bridge	25	4	4	17	30	65	16
Buxton	24	1	6	17	11	50	9

FIRST DIVISION: Atherton L.R. 0 Ashton United 2; Congleton 0 Farsley Celtic 2; Droylsden 0 Great Harwood 0; Lincoln United 4 Harrogate Town 1 Matlock Town 2 Leigh 1, *Radcliffe 2 Bradford P A 0*, Warrington 0 Netherfield 0; Whitley Bay 1 Stocksbridge PS 0; Workington 1 Eastwood Town 1; Worksop 2 Flixton 0. Postponed: Curzon Ashton v Gretna.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Burton 0 Merthyr 1, Cambridge City 1 Atherstone 2; Cheltenham 1 King's Lynn 2; Crawley 2 Baldock 0. Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Halesowen 3; Gresley 2 Ashford 2; Hastings 0 Nuneaton 0; Newport AFC 2 Sittingbourne 3. Salisbury 1 Chelmsford 1; Sudbury 2 Gloucester 1, Worcester 1 Dorchester 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gresley Rovers	24	15	8	1	46	22	53
Halesowen	26	14	7	5	48	30	49
Gloucester City	26	14	3	9	48	34	45
Cheltenham	24	13	3	8	46	27	42
Burton	25	12	6	7	42	33	42
Kings Lynn	24	12	6	6	38	31	42
Merthyr	25	11	6	8	40	34	39
Sudbury Tn	21	12	2	7	43	32	38
Worcester City	24	9	8	7	37	32	35
Salisbury	23	9	7	7	34	32	34
Sittingbourne	24	9	6	9	43	41	33
Nuneaton	24	9	5	10	29	32	32
Gravesend & N	25	8	5	12	34	45	29
Atherstone	25	6	9	10	26	34	27
Crawley Town	25	7	6	12	33	45	27
Dorchester	23	7	5	11	32	38	26
Newport AFC	26	6	7	13	29	44	25
Ashford Town	20	5	9	6	26	34	24
Baldock Tn	24	6	5	13	30	46	23
Cambridge C	24	5	5	14	33	42	20
Hastings	22	4	8	10	28	42	20
Chelmsford	24	3	10	11	26	41	19

MIDLAND DIVISION: *Bilston 2 Bedworth 1*, Corby 1 Stourbridge 2. Dudley Town 3 Ilkeston 2; Grantham 2 Paget 0; Moor Green 2 Rothwell 2; Redditch 1 Raunds 0; Shepshed Dynamo 3 V S Rugby 2; Stafford 2 Hinckley Town 2; Sutton Coldfield Town 0 Solihull Boro 1. Southern division: Bashley 3 Buckingham Town 1, Cirencester 2 Tonbridge Angels 0; Dartford 1 Cinderford 0; Fleet 0 St Leonards 2; Havant 1 Fisher 2; Margate 0 Clevedon 1. Trowbridge 0 Newport (IoW) 1: Weston-super-Mare 2 Waterlooville 0; Weymouth 1 Forest Green 3; Witney 2 Erith and Belvedere 2; Yate 2 Fareham 2

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 2 Kingstonian 5; Bishop's Stortford 0 Dulwich 1; Boreham Wood 2 Bromley 2; Enfield 1 St Albans 0; Harrow 1 Grays 0; Heybridge Swifts 1 Hendon 1, Purfleet 2 Dag and Red 2; Staines 2 Carshalton 0; Sutton United 1 *Oxford City 2; Yeading 0 Chertsey 0; Yeovil* 1 Hitchin 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	22	17	3	2	38	15	54
Enfield	23	16	5	2	51	17	53
Dulwich	24	12	5	7	41	28	41
Sutton Utd	21	11	7	3	44	32	40
Dag & Red	21	11	6	4	33	15	39
Oxford City	24	11	5	8	48	43	38
Purfleet	25	10	6	9	36	32	36
Aylesbury	23	10	6	7	27	27	36
Heybridge	23	10	4	9	31	40	34
Yeading	21	8	7	6	32	25	31
Kingstonian	25	9	4	12	47	48	31
Carshalton	24	7	7	10	29	38	28
St Albans	20	7	5	8	36	33	28
Boreham W	21	8	2	11	28	34	26
Hitchin	25	7	5	13	28	41	26
Bishop's S'tord	23	7	4	12	21	36	25
Staines	23	7	3	13	27	37	24
Bromley	19	6	5	8	30	29	23
Harrow B	24	5	8	11	32	40	23
Hendon	21	4	9	8	25	31	21
Grays	21	4	5	12	23	36	17
Chertsey Town	25	4	5	16	25	55	17

FIRST DIVISION: Billericay 1 Barton 1; Bognor Regis 3 Marlow 0; Canvey Island 3 Croydon 0; Chesham 1 Hampton 0; Leyton Pennant 4 Aldershot Town 2; Molesey 1 *Basingstoke 2; Thame 3 Berkhamsted 2*; Tooting and Mitcham 2 Worthing 1; Uxbridge 0 Abingdon Town 0; Whyteleafe 1 Walton and Hersham 2; Wokingham 0 Maidenhead United 0. Second division: Chalfont St Peter 1 Bracknell 1, Dorking 2 *Metropolitan Police 0; Edgware 3 Cheshunt* 1; Egham 3 Hungerford 0; Leighton 1 Horsham 1; Tilbury 2 Wivenhoe 4; Ware 1 *Hemel Hempstead* 1; Wembley 3 Windsor and Eton 0; Witham 1 Leatherhead 4. Third division: Braintree 4 Hornchurch 0; *Camberley 0 Aveley 2; Clapton 1 Southall 2*; Flackwell Heath 0 East Thurrock 0; Harlow 0 Lewes 2; Hertford 0 Wealdstone 2; Tring 1 Kingsbury 2.

FA CARLSBERG VASE

FIFTH ROUND: Banstead Ath 2 Herne Bay 0; Coll. Row and Romf'd 2 Bedlington Terriers 2 aet, 1-1 after 90 minutes; Durham 0 Northwood 2; Guisborough 2 Wisbech 0; *Mossley 1 Barking 0*; N Ferriby 1 Whitstable Town 0; Taunton 3 Spalding 0; Whitby 1 Tiverton 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 0 Ford United 5; East Ham 1 Hullbridge Sports 3; Saffron Walden 1 Great Wakering 3.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Beaconsfield SYCOB 4 Haringey Borough 1; Hanwell Town 4 Amersham *Town 2*; Harefield United 0 Cockfosters 0; *Islington St Marys 1 Hillingdon Boro 1*; St Margaretsbury 0 Croydon Athletic 4; Waltham Abbey 0 Woodford Town 2.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont 2 *Netherne* 1; Chipstead 0 Farnham Town 3. Cove 1 Corinthian Casuals 0; Feltham 3 Merstham 0; Godalming and Guildford 2 Walton Casuals 1; Reading Town 1 Raynes Park Vale 3. Sandhurst Town 1 Ashford Town 3. Viking Sports 3 Ash United 2; Westfield 1 Cranleigh 3. Postponed: Hartley Wintney v Cobham.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Brache Sparta 3 Hoddesdon 1, Buckingham Athletic 1 Welwyn Garden 4; Harpenden 4 London Colney 0; Langford 1 Biggleswade 0; Milton Keynes 1 Potters Bar 2; Royston 1 Arlesey 1; Toddington 6 Bedford 2

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 0 Paulton 4; Bideford 0 Bridgwater 2; Calne 6 Elmore 0; Chard 1 Mangotsfield 1; Chippenham 2 Torrington 1; Odd Down 2 Brislington 1; Westbury 0 Barnstaple 2.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton Town 2 Sudbury Wanderers 2; Fakenham Town 5 *Stowmarket Town 3, Gorleston 4 Watton* United 1; Hadleigh United 0 Lowestoft Town 3; Halstead Town 2 Soham Town Rangers 3; Harwich and Parkeston 1 Woodbridge Town 0; March Town United 0 Felixstowe P and T 2; Newmarket Town 3 Sudbury Town res 1; Tiptree United 0 Warboys Town 1. Cup: Quarter-final replay: Haverhill Rovers 3 Great Yarmouth Town 0

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: *Andover 0 Bemerton Heath Harl 1*; Downton 2 Romsey 2; East Cowes 0 Christchurch 2; Gosport 4 Cowes Sports 0; Petersfield 2 Wimborne Town 2, Portsmouth R.N 3 B.A.T 2; Ryde Sports 1 Eastleigh 0; Thatcham 0 Lymington 2; *Whitchurch 2 Bournemouth 2.*

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 5 Southwick 3; Eastbourne Town 0 Three Bridges 2; Horsham Y M C A 1 Hailsham 1, Langney Sports 2 Hassocks 1; Portfield 1 Wick 1; Saltdean 5 Oakwood 0; Whitehawk 2 Mile Oak 0. John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: Ringmer 2 Pagham 2 (aet).

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham Town 1 Faversham *Town 1, Canterbury City 0 Tunbridge Wells* 0; Chatham Town 0 Ramsgate 1; Cray Wanderers 0 Woolwich Town 0; Crockenhill 0 Sheppey United 3; Deal Town 0 Furness 2; Greenwich Borough 2 Corinthian 1; Lordswood 2 Folkestone Invicta 3; *Thamesmead Town 3 Slade Green 2.*

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Didcot 2 Banbury 1; Lambourn Sports 3 Swindon Supermarine 1; North Leigh 0 Burnham 1; Shortwood 1 Abingdon United 4; Tuffley 0 Carterton 2.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 2 Cogenhoe 0; M Blackstone 1 Potton 2, N Spencer 2 Desborough 2; St Neots 5 Newport Pagnell 1; Stamford 0 Holbeach *1; S and L Corby 2 Eynesbury 0; Stotfold 2* Bourne 0; Wootton 2 Ford Sports 3.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell 2 Chasetown 2; Blakenall 4 Hinckley Athletic 3, Pershore 0 Pelsall Villa 1; Rushall Olympic 0 Bridgnorth 0; Sandwell 1 Knypersley 0; Stapenhill 2 Halesowen Harriers 1

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 0 Kings Heath 1; Coleshill 0 *Knowle 1; David Lloyd 1* Bilston Community College 5; Handrahan Timbers 2 Massey Ferguson 1; Highgate 1 Shirley 1; Richmond Swifts 3 Studley BKL 0; West Midland Fire Service 1 Coventry Sphinx 2; Worcester 2 Southam 0. President's Cup: Third round: Alveston 2 Polesworth North Warwick 3; Continental Star 4 Colletts Green 2. Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Wellesbourne 1 Meir Ka 2.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 1 Stafford 0; Cradley 0 Ettingshall Ht 1; Darlaston 0 Ludlow 2; Hill Top 0 Wolverhampton United 1; Malvern 0 Westfields 4; Stourport 3 Walsall Wood 1; Tividale 2 Lye 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 1 Gornal 1, Wednesfield 2 Brierley Hill 0.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street 0 South Shields 0; Consett 1 Dunston Federation 1; Murton 2 Morpeth 5; R T M Newcastle 2 Stockton 1; Seaham Red Star 0 Crook 1; Tow Law 1 Easington 2; West Auckland 1 Billingham Synthonia 1

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough 3 Chadderton 1; Darwen 2 Atherton Collieries 2; Eastwood Hanley 0 Bootle 0; Holker Old Boys 3 Maine Road 1; Nantwich 4 St Helens 1; Penrith 3 Kidsgrove 0; Prescot cables 1 Newcastle Town 1; Rossendale 1 Glossop North End 4; Salford 2 Vauxhall G M 2; Trafford 3 Clitheroe 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: *Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 1* Arnold 2; Ashfield 0 Denaby 2; Belper Town 3 Hallam 0; Brigg 2 Maltby M.W. 3; Hucknall 1 Pickering 1; Liversedge 1 Ossett Town 1; Ossett Albion 2 Glasshoughton Welfare 0; Selby 0 Pontefract Cols 1; *Sheffield 2 Hatfield Main 2*

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 2 Cambridge 0; Charlton 1 Chelsea 2; Gillingham 3 West Ham 2; Ipswich 0 Norwich 0; Portsmouth 0 Queens *Park Rangers 1; Southend 1 Leyton Orient* 0; Tottenham 5 Fulham 0; Watford 6 Millwall 1. Second division: Barnet 0 Crystal Palace 3; Bournemouth 0 Wycombe 2; Brentford 1 Swindon 1; Brighton 0 Wimbledon 1; Bristol 1 Oxford 1; Bristol 0 Tottenham 0; Colchester 1 Southampton 2; Reading 1 Luton 2.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn O B 0 Old Vaughanians 2; Latymer O B 0 Clapham O X 0; Old Meadonians 2 Old Hamptonians 4.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Old Actonians 0 Old Esthameians 0; Polytechnic 0 Crouch End Vampires 1; South Bank Poly 3 Old Parmiterians 3; West Wickham 0 Norsemen 1.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Ulysses 2 Old Finchleians 0.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Second round: Lancing 1 Malvernians 2. Premier division: Etonians 2 Wittelans 1. *Reptonians 3 Carthusians 9.*

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Blyth Spartans L Wolverhampton L; Garswood St Helens 4 Stourport 1; Sheff Wed 7 Notts County 2. Postponed: Bradford v Aston Villa. Southern division: *Langford 2 Ipswich 0*; Oxford 3 Town and County 1; Whitehawk 2 Brighton and Hove 3; Wimbledon 3 Three Bridges 3. Postponed: Berkhamstead v Leyton Orient.

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fifth round: Wembley 1 Preston 0; Southampton Saints 1 Berkhampstead 1; Middlesbrough 0 Ilkeston 3; Millwall Lionesses 3 Doncaster Belles 0; Tottenham Hotspur 0 Croydon 4; Reading Royals 2 Aston Villa 4; Arsenal 9 Huddersfield 0.

NATIONAL

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 5 Aberystwyth 1; Barry 8 Rhyl 1; Caersws 3 Cwmbran 1; Carmarthen Town 1 Caernarfon 3, Conwy 1 Llansantffraid 1; Flint Town 0 Ebbw Vale 1; Holywell 3 Ton Pentre 1; Inter Cable-Tel 2 Cemaes Bay 1; Porthmadog 0 Newtown 4, Connah's Quay 2 Briton Ferry 0.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps 0 Bray Wanderers 0; Shelbourne 2 Home Farm Everton 0; Sligo Rovers 2 Bohemians 1; Cork 0 Dundalk 0; UCD 1 Shamrock 0

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards 4 Linfield 1; Cliftonville 0 Crusaders 2; Glenavon 1 Coleraine 1; Glentoran 2 Portadown 0. First division: Ballyclare 2 Distillery 2; Ballymena 2 Carrick 1; Larne 3 Bangor 1; Omagh 2 Newry 2.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 4 Wick Academy 0; Clachnacuddin 0 Peterhead 4; *Deveronvale 5 Elgin 2; Forres Mechanics 1* Nairn County 1; Fort William 0 Fraserburgh 2. Huntly 2 Cove 2; Keith 3 Brora 0; Rothes 0 Lossiemouth 4

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	1
1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	3	3	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: dividend forecast is moderate; five score draws and 23 no-score draws Full-time: dividend forecast is low; 12 score draws and six no-score draws

As England prepare to play Italy, **David Miller** opens a series on the game's standing

The ills afflicting football's national health

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALLSPORT

Evans: "We're handicapped in England by the way the public expect us to play"

Wenger: surprised by technical expertise

Macari: laments the poverty of skill

Six factors interlock in establishing the health and success of football, or lack of it, in a traditionally powerful country: talent and technique; tactics and style; fatigue from excessive domestic competition; the intelligence of coaches at every level; the import of foreign players; and the evolving social and financial environment.

Since winning the World Cup in 1966, England have lost 14 of their 23 matches against the two most consistently successful European nations, Italy and (West) Germany. They have won only twice against each. In the ranking-list of Fifa, the game's world governing body, England stand twelfth. Brazil, the world champions, lead it, followed by Germany, the European champions, and France.

Admittedly, two semi-finals, in the World Cup in 1990 and Euro 96, were lost to Germany on penalties, but the balance of power, at national as opposed to club level, has undoubtedly shifted away from football's founders. There is little doubt, however, that Italy, never mind their six victories in nine encounters with England since 1966, will be as anxious about the match next week as were, say, Brazil when they met the defending World Cup holders in the opening round in Mexico in 1970. English vigour, whatever the fluctuating skills, remains the envy of all. Yet the situation could be so much better. What is now the state of the six factors in the game's fatherland?

Talent and technique

"We are massively underachieving," Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's new technical director, said. "We do well considering the system, but we need to develop a coaching culture, within a holistic education, so that the eight-year-old who changes his mind at 12 does not come off the line a 'failed footballer'. In the hunt for talent, football must behave responsibly towards youth."

Managers are unanimous that spontaneous natural ability has declined, for many reasons. "There's a lot less raw talent, being chased by all the clubs," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "As Bill [Shankly] used to say, 'If they can't play to start with, forget it'. You can't *make* a great player, but can improve good players, so there's an attempt to compensate at the coaching level." Liverpool have the finance to support this attempt.

Graeme Souness and Lou Macari, the respective managers of struggling Southampton and promotion-chasing Stoke City, were contemporary players for Scotland in the Seventies. Without the resources of the big clubs, they experience the desperate challenge to stay afloat. "There's not the quality coming through," Souness said. "I learnt technique long before becoming a professional. There was *nothing* else to do."

Macari, one of those who all but rescued Scotland's chequered World Cup campaign in 1978, laments the poverty of skill. "When I was trying to get into that '78 squad," he said, "I reckoned there were 50 candidates — outstanding players such as Rioch, Masson, Gemmill, Dalglish, Willy Johnston, Morgan, Carr, Hutchison, Souness. Nowadays, if someone here at the Victoria Ground traps the ball first time, the crowd applauds — and it's usually a foreigner!"

'You can't make a great player but you can improve good players'

The most damning indictment comes from Egil Olsen, the Norway manager, who schemed England's elimination from the 1994 World Cup. "To go from the best club in Norway to one of the second best in England is now downwards, not an improvement," Olsen said.

Yet Arsene Wenger, at Arsenal, is more optimistic. "I'm quite surprised by the [technical] level of Liverpool, Newcastle, Aston Villa and others, and even the lower teams, such as Nottingham Forest. The difference [from the best Europeans] lies in the preparation of youth."

Tactics and style

Ever since the radical change in the offside law in 1925 — from three defenders between opponent and goal to two — tactics have continually evolved. What has latterly changed most, however, is the defensive organisation of lesser teams and their advanced physical fitness, counteracting those which once dominated by technique. "Look at the World Cup final video of 1970 between Brazil and Italy," Olsen said, "and you see it was almost a walking game [even allowing for the heat and altitude]. The game has advanced so much in speed and fitness."

Evans agrees. "The way we play *has* altered. The progress of the Scandinavians has been exceptional, relying on organisation, without flair. Teams come to Anfield to sit on the game, obliging us to open out. And we're handicapped in England by the way the public expect us to play [all-action], making it difficult to adjust to the European way. The public as well as the players have had to relearn the international game after the five-year exclusion [after Heysel]."

Evans does not favour a one-style league. "Sure, if we all played three at the back, it would help Glenn Hoddle, but style and tactics depend on the players you have," he said. "Teams are adapted to utilise the free spirit of someone such as McManaman or Cantona." This variety adds, of course, to the global appeal of the English league.

The controversy surrounding the merits of the long-ball theory and the possession game, exemplified by Brazil and Liverpool, is unresolved. Olsen argues that direct play is the most effective route to goal, the majority of goals stemming from three passes or less.

Souness, bred in Liverpool's finest era, disagrees. "The best of our managers are as good as the best in Italy's Serie A," he said, "but I think we've [generally] been getting it wrong for a number of years. I don't subscribe to the under-three-pass school, and developing kids should spend as much time as possible *with* a ball."

Fatigue

In the Seventies Miljan Miljanic, the astute coach of Red Star Belgrade and Real Madrid, described English football as industrial, ie, overworked. Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, is adamant about the fatigue factor. "In both Scottish and English leagues, our players are abused, physically," he said. "Rangers recently had 11 matches in a month. You can't expect even experienced players to cope. There is no recovery time."

Wenger said: "England have not been successful for 20 years, even with some good players, because they're mentally and physically tired at the end of the season. They cannot expect to do well in summer international tournaments following three or more domestic competitions."

Coaching

Steve Heighway, who played for Liverpool for 11 seasons and gained 30 caps for Ireland, is now Liverpool's director of youth football. "Recreational football for kids, in the streets, has gone," he said, acknowledging that the spontaneous street genius such as Matthews or Finney will never recur. "No coaching is better than bad coaching, but, when a club has sound facilities and staff," — Liverpool have 24 full and part-time coaches — "it won't be a coincidence if we start catching up the foreigners."

Wenger thinks that, though England are capable, tactically, of competing with anyone, the gap with foreign countries lies in youth work. "The coaching of coaches is paramount, and the FA is conscious of this," he said, "but you cannot continue without licences for coaches, without education." Brown, whose formative coaching years were with Scotland junior teams, Olsen and others are astounded that England has no mandatory coaching qualification for managers.

"Even a good former player needs to learn how to lead people," Olsen said. Wilkinson finds frustration in the English syndrome in which the scale of coaching pay goes down with the age-group. "You should be able to envisage a career in school or youth coaching, without aiming for the first team," he said.

Imports

Wenger, a former defender who coached Nancy, AS Monaco and Nagoya before joining Arsenal, believes that the commercially buoyant English game stands at a dangerous turning point with the invasion of foreigners. "Like fashion, it is extreme," he said, "and there are both beneficial and negative aspects. You have to balance between investment and productivity, between short-term success and the long-term danger of denying chances to young players which could suffocate the national team."

Social and financial

Wenger is unrestrained, however, in his admiration for what he terms the English fighting spirit and the affinity between spectators and wholehearted players such as Stuart Pearce; the loyalty that sees 27,000 supporting stricken Manchester City. "This generosity and loyalty to the club exists in no other country," he said, "and you must not lose this, nor the spirit of the players, though this will be threatened by the huge rise in salaries." While Wenger can speak of crowd-player loyalty at a famous club such as Arsenal, Macari witnesses the other side of the coin with less glamorous Stoke, where guaranteed, agent-negotiated salaries and freedom of contract deny the manager proper control.

"In my day, we worked harder because there was more competition for places," Macari said. "You had to prove your worth every game. Now, players suit themselves. The normal rules of employment, of what the manager says being what matters, no longer apply. The game has changed. The money, the habits. That's why I fear what lies ahead."

TOMORROW

How to cope with life at the top

McLean fits United jigsaw into picture of success

Any club travelling to play at Tannadice these days is making its way into the past, but not on a sentimental journey. The minds of its players will be packed with misgivings rather than nostalgia. Dundee United defeated Celtic 1-0 on Saturday, demonstrating that the resourcefulness and organisation absent since the 1980s truly have been restored.

Tommy McLean's side has won seven Bell's Scottish League premier division matches in succession, the best sequence by the club since 1983. Supporters are witnessing a joyous anachronism. United were relegated as recently as 1995 and there was a widespread belief that they had not only left the top flight but also become outmoded.

United, it was thought, were too small, too poor not to be bruised now that Celtic and Rangers are so given to throwing their weight and money about. As it is, the future may still look like a foe to the club. Economics and, its accomplice, technology continue to appear forbidding and nobody can be sure how United will fare in the era of pay-per-view television.

Some skills, however, can never become obsolete. Craftsmanship often reaches its most highly developed form when the budget is tight and United have always had to be careful with their cash. McLean may have signed seven players since becoming manager in September, but, above all, he has demonstrated the old-fashioned arts of team-building.

During the ten years at Motherwell in which he perfected his methods, funds were rarely available to McLean. Thrift might once have been a necessity, but, by now, it could be his preference. His spending at Tannadice has been more than covered by sales, the most notable of which saw David Hannah join Celtic for £650,000.

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

The true wealth employed by United lies within McLean's head. There, one finds a rich mind capable not only of evaluating little-known players but also, vitally, of judging how they will complement men already on his staff.

The builders of a drystone wall use no mortar, selecting stones that will fit one another and create a structure to outlast storms. McLean's work is similar and one need only look at the forward line to see how he pieces together a range of assets.

On the right there is the trickiness of Andy McLaren and through the middle McLean employs the fleet-footed Robbie Winters. To the left of those youngsters is the older, burlier, wiser Kjell Olofsson, one of the three Scandinavians brought to the club by the manager.

Inspection of each department of the side brings the same sort of findings. The central defence sees the veteran, Maurice Malpas, supervising two husky markers, Steven Pressley and Mark Perry, while United also have a specialist marker in Erik Pedersen. In the main, he stifled Paolo di Canio on Saturday, just as he had Brian Laudrup in the 1-0 win against Rangers in December.

There was also sufficient depth in the squad for the only goal against Celtic, a refined lob in the 88th minute, to be scored by a substitute, Gary McSwegan. It may only be wishful thinking to imagine that United, third in the table, could ever sustain a challenge to the Old Firm for the league title over an entire season, but they are a rebuke to fatalists who suppose that life must always be serene for Celtic and Rangers.

The match on Saturday was an oddity that gradually became enthralling. United ought to have built an unassailable lead before Celtic, in the last 20 minutes, conjured the chances that should have guaranteed victory for them. Tommy Burns's men are now seven points behind Rangers, the leaders of the premier division, who drew 0-0 with Heart of Midlothian.

Rangers forget basic principles

Queens Park Rangers ... 0
Crystal Palace 1

By Simon Wilde

GREAT goals can play terrible tricks on the mind. Trevor Sinclair's classic strike to kill off Barnsley in the FA Cup last week appears to have given Queens Park Rangers delusions of grandeur and on Saturday they spent 90 minutes trying to play classic football. Everybody knew what they were attempting to say, but their pronunciation was unclear. In the drawing-room of civilised footballers, they dropped aitches left, right and centre.

"We tried to play a bit of football," Stewart Houston, the Rangers manager, said ruefully — and how right he was. Everywhere, ambition outstripped execution. Planned intricacies unwound painfully; touches intended to be deft were too heavy or too light; manouevres that came close to completion ended in fumbled failure. Sinclair's goal, for which a presentation was made to him before the game, may have evoked memories of Brazil *circa* 1970, but this was more like Les Dawson playing Franz Schubert.

Rangers had enough ideas and possession to deserve at least a draw and probably would have got one had not Palace read the game so well; but Palace realised, after only 15 minutes of watching their opponents finessing the ball to no good purpose, that here was a match for the taking.

After running rings round Southend United in midweek and not gaining a point, this was sweet recompense, for Palace created little except their goal — and that, too, owed much to Rangers' lack of attention to detail. In the 22nd minute the ball fell to Hopkin inside the Rangers half and he was allowed to run 15 yards without being pressured before unleashing the juiciest of drives — with his wrong foot, his left — which buried itself into a corner of the Rangers net.

This was Hopkin's thirteenth goal from midfield this season and he must have caught the eye of Craig Brown, the watching Scotland manager. Brown had actually come to observe Spencer, who was forced to withdraw after turning an ankle in training the previous day and whose invention was sorely missed by Rangers.

Hopkin was outstanding for Palace, but so was Nash, their inexperienced goalkeeper. Twice in the second half he made sharp saves; one from a volley from the industrious Peacock, which he palmed past his left post, the other from a point-blank header from Brazier, which he pushed off the line.

Usually, Rangers did not get as far as Nash, foundering instead on the central rock of Tuttle, Edworthy and the admirable Linighan. Dichio and Hateley, his replacement, never looked like outwitting them and the outcome — which lifted Palace above four teams, including Rangers, to sixth and back into contention for a first division play-off place — was apparent to most long before Sinclair essayed another overhead kick, in the ninetieth minute. The ball dropped easily into Nash's hands, a final and neat reminder of Rangers' need to get back to basics.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer — R Brevett, A McDonald, D Maddix, A Impey — M Brazier, P Murray, S Barker, T Sinclair — G Peacock, D Dichio (sub: M Hateley, 58min).

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): C Nash — D Gordon, A Linighan, M Edworthy, D Tuttle — C Veart, K Muscat, A Roberts, D Hopkin — D Freedman (sub: G Ndah, 84), B Dyer (sub: N Shipperley, 80).

Referee: E Wolstenholme

Watford draw the line at records

Watford 2
Rotherham United 0

By Pat Gibson

ANORAKS everywhere, not to mention pools punters who had them down as a banker on their coupons, will have felt betrayed, but Watford were not about to apologise. They were only too happy to pass up the opportunity of equalling the Football League record of eight consecutive draws in favour of their first win in the second division since November.

They are now unbeaten in 22 league and cup matches which, if it is any consolation to the statisticians, is at least a club record, but all those draws — 13 in their previous 15 games — had seriously undermined their chances of promotion. It is one thing being hard to beat, it is quite another going on to win, and their lack of conviction must stem, in part, from the uncertainty over the future of the club.

Jack Petchey, the owner, has made no secret of the fact that he wants to sell, but until a buyer comes forward — and all Watford supporters fervently hope that Elton John, the life president, is waiting somewhere in the wings — there is no money available to strengthen the side.

In the circumstances, Watford have done well to hang on to the pack of clubs chasing promotion, particularly when their appalling list of injuries is taken into account. They were still missing eight senior players on Saturday and were forced to turn to one from the youth team, Ward, at the heart of their defence, and two more, Andrews and Noel-Williams, up front. Had it not been for Miller, a goalkeeper obviously destined for higher things, Watford could well have fallen behind.

It all changed in the second half. Watford's confidence got the fillip needed in the fiftieth minute when Armstrong put over a deep cross from the left and Bazeley stole in front of the Rotherham defence. Pilkington did well to block his first effort, but Bazeley forced in the rebound.

Watford began to knock the ball around impressively and the goal that secured the game, in the 65th minute, would have had Messrs Hansen and Brooking drooling on *Match of the Day*. Page hit a long through-ball from the right and Slater pulled it down with his left foot before volleying brilliantly into the top corner with his right.

WATFORD (3-4-1-2): K Miller — R Page, N Gibbs, D Ward — D Bazeley, S Palmer, R Johnson, C Armstrong — S Slater — G Noel-Williams, W Andrews (sub: G Pennce, 74min)

ROTHERHAM UNITED (5-3-2): K Pilkington — I Breckin, M Monington, P Blades, B Gayle, A Roscoe (sub: E Judeqoan, 68) — P Hurst, D Garner, J McGlashan — M Druce, L Glover

Referee: R Sykes

Brave Bournemouth bank on dedication

Bournemouth 0
Blackpool 0

By Nick Szczepanik

IT WAS a revealing moment. "We just have to take each game ..." Mel Machin, the Bournemouth manager, began, then paused, the last three words of the traditional platitude apparently frozen on his lips. As it comes? If it comes, more like.

Bournemouth, in the hands of receivers with debts of more than £4 million, were allowed to stage this game only after the Football League granted them a stay of execution, and have until Wednesday week to find £300,000 to guarantee their remaining fixtures this season. Players have gone unpaid, and John Williams, the assistant manager, was one of many employees dismissed last week as part of cost-cutting measures.

Williams, nevertheless, is continuing to work on a voluntary basis, and his dedication has been matched elsewhere. A trust fund had raised £102,000 in four days, and Trevor Watkins, its administrator, was hopeful that contributions made at Dean Court on Saturday would amount to another £25,000. Contributions have been of all types, "from cakes to concerts".

If an attendance almost 3,000 below the hoped-for capacity crowd was a disappointment, Watkins put a brave face on it. "It's a positive start," he said.

The gate receipts from Saturday will pay the players' wages, which they earned with a fighting display. "I was really proud of the boys; we'd like to have won, but it was still a very big battle for us," Machin said.

BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): J Glass — N Young, I Cox, M Holland, J Vincent — J Bailey, M Rawlinson, R Beardsmore, J Brissett (sub: J Town, 75min) — S Fletcher, S Robinson

BLACKPOOL (4-4-2): S Banks — M Bryan, A Butler, D Linighan, A Barlow — J Quinn, M Mellon, G Brabin, S Darton (sub: C Malkin, 63) — A Preece, A Ellis

Referee: D Orr.

Lowly Hereford are still alive and kicking

Hereford United 3
Wigan Athletic 1

By Ivo Tennant

HEREFORD United lie a place above Brighton and Hove Albion in the Nationwide League third division, which is to say that they are down among the dead men. That, at least, is how clubs at the loftier end of the table view their predicament. For Wigan Athletic, there were points to be gained from this fixture to capitalise on the defeat of Fulham, the leaders, the previous evening.

How wrong they were. Hereford won by scoring three goals with a verve that is not associated with this division. Their first was struck instantly by Adrian Foster from Fishlock's low cross midway through the first half. Their second and third were beautifully curled, by Beeston and Fishlock, one speculatively and the other from a free kick. John Deehan, the Wigan manager, described them generously as "fantastic goals".

He also made it quite clear what he thought of Wigan's performance. They had equalised eight minutes after Foster's goal, Rogers flitting past a poorly-manned defence to head home. Wigan then squandered such chances as they had for the remainder of the match.

Tomorrow night Hereford are at home to Darlington, who scored five times on Saturday and who are but one point ahead of them in the table. This, perhaps, will be a greater challenge, or, at any rate, a greater scrap. A few more goals of the kind that were so forthcoming in this match will not go amiss.

HEREFORD UNITED (4-4-2): T Wood — D Norton, D Smith, T Matthewson, M Fishlock — R Warner, C Beeston, K Downing, C Hargreaves — A Foster (sub: I Foster 81min), M Kottila (sub: J Brough, 76)

WIGAN ATHLETIC (3-5-2): L Butler — C Bishop, C Greenall, M Carragher (sub: I Diaz, 57) — I Kilford, S Morgan (sub: K Sharp, 45) P Rogers, R Martinez, G Johnson — G Jones, D Lowe (sub: W Biggins, 75)

Referee: J Brandwood

Second bite reward for Terriers

Collier Row and Romford 2
Bedlington Terriers 2
(after extra time)

By Walter Gammie

AFTER Mike Taylor smacked an equaliser in the final minute of extra time in the FA Carlsberg Vase fifth-round tie at Sungate on Saturday, he turned a cartwheel and the Bedlington Terriers bench spilt in delight onto the field.

"There was a lot of passion in the game, a lot of commitment," Keith Perry, the Northern League team's manager, said. "It was going to be a long way home when you weren't going to get anything out of it."

Now it is the turn of Collier Row and Romford, of the Icis League, to do the travelling — up to the North East on Saturday. Donal McGovern, the manager, said: "We've got to be confident. We haven't lost away all season."

Bedlington took the lead with a smart shot off the post by Milner in the second minute and looked in little trouble until Gravette equalised in the 27th minute.

Bedlington wasted their chances before Hayes, the former Arsenal player, back in north London selling cars, squeezed in a shot after ten minutes of extra time.

McKnight made a blinding save from Ditchburn, but Bedlington earned their last-gasp reprieve from the corner. There was still time for Sorrell, the Romford captain, to vent his feelings towards the referee and be sent off.

COLLIER ROW AND ROMFORD (3-4-1-2): A McKnight — J Nicholson, A Mercer (sub: D Southgate, 81min), P Evans — M Hood, W Gravette (sub: M Gotts, 98), A Sorrell, D Benstock — M Hayes — L Fioling, A Norman

BEDLINGTON TERRIERS (4-4-2): J Egan — M Cameron, A Gowens, W Teasdale, G Hays — M Cross (sub: M Taylor, 75), J Milner, A Burgess (sub: J Sokoluk, 110), G Middleton — D Peattie, D Gibb (sub: T Ditchburn, 81)

Referee: D Crick

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FISHING: LONDON BUSINESSMAN LANDS CATCH OF A LIFETIME AFTER PROLONGED ENCOUNTER WITH EXOTIC SPECIES IN INDIAN WATERS

Golden moment when the mahseer was mastered

By Brian Clarke

IMAGINE a Scottish salmon river rumpling through the Highlands. Now double or triple the size of it. Double or triple the speed of the current. Now imagine hooking a wild 15lb trout there on a single-handed rod; or a 40lb salmon on a regulation two-hander; or a 50-pounder, a 60-pounder, a 70-pounder...

That is what those who fish for the mahseer of southeast Asia say the experience is like. Like that, or like tying a Kawasaki 1000 to the end of your line and letting it go.

Steve Edge, the head of a *London design agency*, knows all about it. He has just returned from one of the gentler mahseer rivers, the Cauvery, in southern India. He got two fish in five days, one of 67lb, *the other a 90-pounder*, which is big, even as mahseer go.

Edge's story of the battle with his big fish — a large-scaled, gold and silver specimen that, like all mahseer, looked part common carp and part barbel — was typical.

He hooked the fish at sunset on what his guides had told him must be the last cast of his last day. He was using a heavy-duty, double-handed rod and a 30lb line. The *take was savage and the fish made* an immediate downstream run of almost 250 yards.

"My two guides got hold of a coracle and the three of us scrambled in," he said. "We followed the fish, attempting to win back some line and control. We were several *hundred yards further down*stream before I managed to turn the fish's head. Three-quarters of an hour later, with every muscle and sinew in my body aching, I landed it."

The fish was nursed for a while in the water, *lifted out for the ritual* and well-earned photographs, and then held back in the current to gather its strength before being set free. Edge's last sight of it, before it swirled and turned away, *still* haunts him. "It was like a mythical creature cast in gold ... this huge, beautiful fish was radiating light in the dusk," he said.

Stories of the mahseer have been coming out of India and Nepal for *more than 150 years; indeed, since* the first sporting colonialists, far from home and seeking diversions, found them.

The early encounters mostly *ended in disaster*, because the tackle available simply could not cope. Over the years British manufacturers developed new rods and reels. In 1873 R. H. Thomas published *The Rod In India*, a famous book that brought the mahseer to *wide attention*.

By 1885 a Captain Lumsden was telling readers of *The Angler's Handbook* that spinning was normally the most successful method. Where he had been, "the Maharaja also lends visitors elephants to fish from. These animals stand still in the rivers and are quite accustomed *to having fish caught on all sides of* them."

Edge proudly presents his 90lb mahseer before returning it to the River Cauvery in southern India

From the late 19th century to the late 1930s the mahseer was the great exotic of angling's upper classes. Many an expedition was launched from Great Britain, with tigers and mahseer as the principal goals.

Then came the Second World War and mahseer fishing was largely forgotten. With independence in 1947, the fish slipped from sight — from British awareness, at least. Things stayed that way until, in the 1970s, Paul Boote, the remarkable British angling writer and adventurer, rediscovered and *republicised the fish almost single*-handedly. Boote wrote of his experiences with the mahseer and interest in the fish again began to rise.

In 1988 he teamed up with John Bailey, another well-known writer and adventurer. *In 1989* the pair spent two months in the Himala*yan foothills. A film of their* expedition was shown widely on television in Europe and the United States. Interest in the mahseer surged and has stayed high since.

Since that trip Boote has turned his nomadic attention to the tiger *fish of the Congo River basin* and to the great wild trout of Patagonia. Bailey, when he is not writing, now leads specialist, high-adventure fishing expeditions for a living — including one or two trips each year for mahseer (details or advice on 01263 761602).

Bailey helped to organise the trip on which the 104lb, post-independence mahseer record was set in 1991. That trip was also to the Cauvery; *but of late all of his* interest has focused on the Himalayas — on northern India, Nepal and on even more remote rivers coming out of Tibet and Burma.

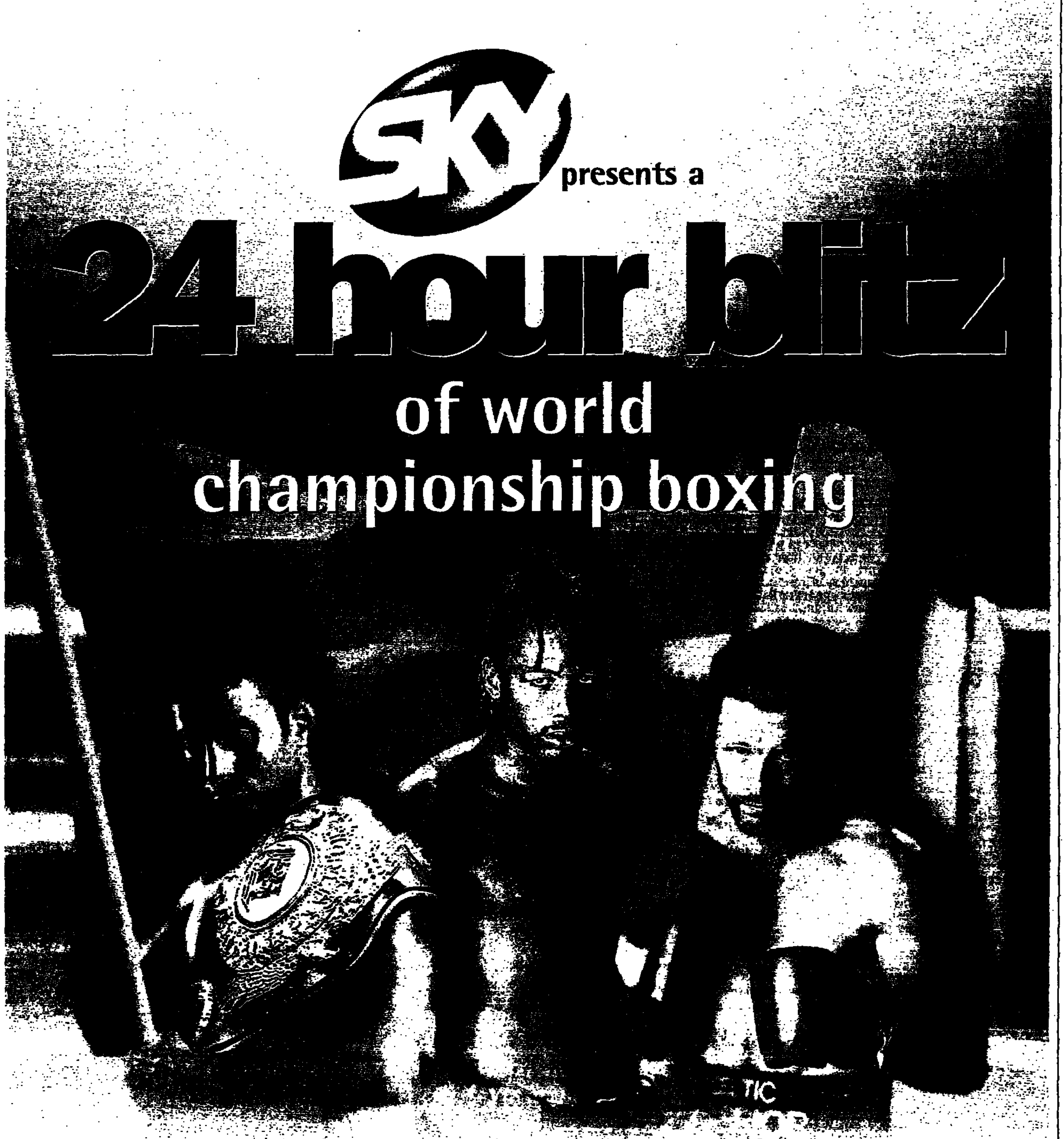
While the mahseer in some of the southern rivers are largely residential, the fish in the north lead lives reminiscent of salmon and trout and offer more varied angling opportunities. They feed and grow in the big rivers — most famously *the Ganges and the Brahmaputra* — but also in many others. Fishing for them with rod and line in these vast waters is not practicable.

Each year, though, after the monsoons, the fish leave the big *rivers for* the swollen mountain tributaries to spawn. Having spawned, they head downstream again. On the way, the fish feed ravenously to regain condition; and so, in August, September and October, the fish are in eminently *fishable rivers* — and catchable.

Many methods are used. In the south, legering with a locally-concocted paste — the method that Edge used — is the most widely practised. In the *shallower*, faster rivers of the Himalayas, Bailey prefers *spinning* and fly fishing, mostly with salmon tackle. However, he has even taken mahseer on the dry fly with a single-handed trout rod, when they have come up to the surface to feed on *moths* in the dusk.

"But then," he said, "the mahseer will take whatever becomes available. I once saw poachers fishing with dynamite. Soon a lot of carp began drifting downstream, dead *on the surface*. They were sizeable fish, up to 6lb a piece. The mahseer came up to feed on them. To see a 6lb carp sucked out of the surface, as though it were an insect trying to *hatch*, is extraordinary. *Imagine* a fish on a river that can do that."

☐ *Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.*



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TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Worcester City v Nuneaton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Leigh.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Swindon (2.0); Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers (at Kingstonian FC, 7.0); Watford v Portsmouth (at Chesham FC).

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Preston v Wolverhampton (7.0).

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Second round: Fortismere, Middlesex v Holloway, Inner London (at Norseman FC, 2.15).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: European featherweight championship: Billy Hardy (Sunderland, holder) v Steve Robinson (Cardiff) (at Crowtree Leisure Centre, Sunderland)*

RACING: Southwell (AW, 2.0); Fontwell Park (1.40); Newcastle (1.50).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third-round replay: Woking v Coventry (7.45). Fourth round: Arsenal v Leeds (8.0); Bolton v Chesterfield (7.45); *Peterborough v Wrexham (7.45)*. *Fourth* round-replay: Wimbledon v Manchester United (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v West Bromwich (7.45) Second division: Notts County v Bournemouth (7.45); Walsall v Blackpool (7.45). Third division: Cardiff v Scunthorpe; Colchester v Leyton Orient (7.45); Hereford v Darlington; Lincoln v Wigan; Mansfield v Chester (7.45); Rochdale v Scarborough.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round: Northern section: Burnley v Stockport (7.45). Southern section: Northampton v Luton (7.45).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank v St Johnstone; Greenock Morton v St Mirren. Third division: Cowdenbeath v Albion; East Stirling v Montrose; Forfar v Arbroath.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Brechin v Alloa. Third-round replay: Berwick v Falkirk.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Bath v Otago (7.15).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: 7-UP Trophy: Semi-final, first leg: Chester v Leicester (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY: *International match*: Great Britain v Japan (tba).

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50); Carlisle (1.40); *Warwick* (1.30).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fourth round: Manchester City v Watford (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Swindon v Queens Park Rangers (7.45).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Hamilton v Livingston; Queen of South v Ayr; Stranraer v Clyde.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Hemel and Watford (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Manchester v Newcastle (7.30). Tour match: Cardiff v Japan (tba).

RACING: Wolverhampton (AW, 1.50); Ascot (1.30); Ludlow (1.40).

SNOOKER: *Benson and Hedges Masters* (at Wembley Conference Centre)

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Raith (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Birmingham (7.0). 7-UP Trophy: Semi-final, first leg: Sheffield v London (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Bracknell v Nottingham (8.0); Ayr v Sheffield (6.30); Basingstoke v Manchester (7.30).

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.50); Huntingdon (1.30); Kelso (1.45); Wincanton (1.40).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: *Charlton v Tranmere (7.45)*; *Stoke v Oxford* United (7.45). Second division: Bristol City v Stockport (7.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Dewsbury Rams v Doncaster Dragons (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Council heavyweight championship (vacant): Lennox Lewis (GB) v Oliver McCall (US) (at Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas).

HOCKEY: *Indoor finals* (at Crystal Palace).

RACING: Southwell (AW, 2.10); Bangor (1.45); Newbury (1.30); Towcester (1.55).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Port Vale; Birmingham v Portsmouth; *Crystal Palace v Bradford*; Huddersfield v Wolverhampton; Ipswich v Queens Park Rangers; Manchester City v Southend; Oldham v Grimsby; Reading v Bolton; West Bromwich v Swindon. Second division: Blackpool v Peterborough; Brentford v Watford; Burnley v York; Bury v Bournemouth; *Chesterfield v Wrexham*; Gillingham v Bristol Rovers; Luton v Plymouth; Rotherham v Preston; Shrewsbury v Notts County; Walsall v Millwall; Wycombe v Crewe. Third division: Barnet v Hereford; Brighton v Hartlepool; Cambridge United v Hull; Cardiff v Colchester; Chester v Doncaster; Exeter v Rochdale; Lincoln v Fulham; Northampton v Swansea; Scarborough v Darlington; Scunthorpe v Mansfield; *Torquay v Leyton Orient*; Wigan v Carlisle.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath v Telford; Dover v Macclesfield; Gateshead v Kettering; Rushden & Diamonds v Hednesford

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee United v Hibernian; Dunfermline v Rangers; Hearts v Kilmarnock; Motherwell v Aberdeen. First division: East Fife v Clydebank; Greenock Morton v Falkirk; Partick v St Mirren; St Johnstone v Airdrie; Stirling v Dundee. Second division: Ayr v Clyde, Brechin v Stranraer; Dumbarton v Livingston; Hamilton v Berwick; Queen Of South v Stenhousemuir. Third division: Alloa v Cowdenbeath; Arbroath v Albion; Forfar v Ross County; Inverness CT v East Stirling; Queen's Park v Montrose.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

PILKINGTON CUP: Sixth round: Bath v Leicester (2.15).

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Orrell (3.0); *Harlequins v Sale (3.0)*; *London Irish v* Leicester (3.0); Northampton v Saracens (3.0); West Hartlepool v Wasps (3.0) Second division: Blackheath v London Scottish (3.0); Nottingham v Coventry (3.0); Richmond v Moseley (3.0); Rugby v Newcastle (3.0); Wakefield v Bedford; *Waterloo v Rotherham (2.15)*. *Third division*: Clifton v Havant (3.0); Harrogate v Exeter (2.15); Leeds v Wharfedale (3.0); London Welsh v Rosslyn Park (2.15); Lydney v Reading (3.0); Morley v Liverpool St Helens (3.0); Redruth v Otley; Walsall v Fylde. Fourth division north: Aspatria v *Sandal*; *Hereford v Winnington Park*; Manchester v Kendal (2.15); Nuneaton v Lichfield; Sheffield v Preston Grasshoppers; Stoke-on-Trent v Birmingham/Solihull; Worcester v Stourbridge. Fourth division south: Askeans v Met Police; Camberley v Henley; High Wycombe v Charlton Park; Newbury v Berry Hill (3.0); North Walsham v Cheltenham; Plymouth v Barking (3.0); Tabard v Weston-super-Mare (2.15).

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Bridgend v Newbridge; Caerphilly v Pontypridd; Cardiff v Treorchy; Neath v Ebbw Vale; Newport v Llanelli; Swansea v Dunvant Second division: Abercynon v Aberavon; Blackwood v Ystradgynlais, Bonymaen v *South Wales Police*; *Cross Keys v Pontypool*; Llandovery v Maesteg; Cardiff Inst v Abertillery.

TENNENTS PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v Currie (3.0). Hawick v Melrose (3.0); Heriots FP v Watsonians (3.0); Stirling County v Jed-Forest (3.0) Second division: Biggar v Gala (3.0); Dundee HSFP v Edinburgh Acads (3.0); Glasgow Acads v Glasgow HK (3.0). West *of Scotland v Kelso (3.0)*. *Third division*: Glasgow Southern v Peebles (3.0); Kirkcaldy v Stewarts Mel FP (3.0); Preston Lodge v Musselburgh (3.0); Selkirk v Kilmarnock (3.0). Fourth division: Ayr v Langholm (3.0); Corstorphine v Haddington (3.0); Gordonians v Glenrothes (3.0); *Grangemouth v Hillhead/Jordanhill (3.0)*.

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Cork Constitution v *Ballymena*; *Dungannon v Blackrock College*; Instonians v Old Wesley; Old Crescent v Old Belvedere; Shannon v Garryowen; *St Mary's College* v Lansdowne; Terenure Coll v Young Munster. Second division: Bective Rangers v Greystones; DLSP v Clontarf; Derry v *Wanderers*; *Highfield v Monkstown*; NIFC v Skerries; Sunday's Well v Malone; UCC v Dolphin.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: St Helens v Wigan Warriors (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: British world championship trials (in Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v London (8.0); Derby v Leopards (7.30); Leicester v Birmingham (7.30); *Manchester v Thames Valley* (7.30); Hemel and Watford v Newcastle (7.30); Worthing v Sheffield (8.0).

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight championship: Steve Collins (Dublin, holder) v Frederic Seillier (Fr); World Boxing Organisation *and International Boxing Federation* featherweight championship: Prince Naseem Hamed (Sheffield, WBO holder) v Tom Johnson (US, IBF holder). World Boxing Organisation light-flyweight championship: Mickey Cantwell (London) v Baby Jake Matlala (SA, holder); World Boxing Council *super-middleight championship*: Robin Reid (Liverpool, holder) v Giovanni Pretorius (SA) (at London Arena)

HOCKEY: Indoor finals (at Crystal Palace).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham v Cardiff (7.0); Basingstoke v Newcastle (6.30)

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, 2.15); *Ayr* (1.0); Catterick (1.30); Newbury (1.15); Uttoxeter (1.40).

SNOOKER: Benson and *Hedges Masters* (at Wembley Conference Centre).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield United v Norwich (1.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Batley Bulldogs v Paris St Germain (3.15); Carlisle Border Raiders v Dudley (2.0); Castleford Tigers v Salford Reds (3.30); Featherstone Rovers v Widnes Vikings (3.30); Huddersfield Giants v Hull (3.30); Hull Kingston Rovers v Halifax Blue Sox; Hunslet Hawks v Bradford Bulls (at Elland Road, 3.30); Lancashire Lynx v London Broncos; Leigh *Centurions* v Sheffield Eagles, Oldham Bears v Rochdale Hornets; Wakefield Trinity v Swinton Lions (3.30); Warrington Wolves v Barrow Braves, Whitehaven Warriors v Leeds Rhinos; Workington Town v Keighley Cougars.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: British world championship trials (in Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London v Chester (7.0); Thames Valley v Newcastle (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr v Bracknell (6.0); Newcastle v Sheffield (6.30); Manchester v Nottingham (6.0). Cardiff v Basingstoke (6.0).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Masters (at Wembley Conference Centre.

ATHLETICS: SECOND PLACE AT INDOOR MEETING DELIGHTS FORMER WORLD-BEATER

Gunnell's career safely back on track

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

THERE were three British winners in the Sparkassen Cup indoor meeting here yesterday and a stunning world record, but it was a Briton who provided the most heart-warming moment by finishing second in a B race. Sally Gunnell, just across the way from where she won her world title and set a world record in 1993, emerged unscathed from her first race since leaving the Olympic arena in Atlanta six months ago in a wheelchair.

It was indicative of how far Gunnell has fallen that she was consigned to an undercard 400 metres in which none of her opponents was ranked in the world's top 100, although Anja Rucker's victory in 52.16sec promoted her to 42nd. Gunnell followed in 52.32sec, faster than she opened 1993. It was 0.60sec outside her British record.

Results from Stuttgart.................Page 36

"I am pleased with that because I was looking for low 53s," Gunnell said. "I'm getting back towards my old self. In the past, it has taken me a few races to get down to that sort of time."

Since completing the grand slam of 400 metres hurdles gold medals — Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth — in 1994, Gunnell has been an injured spectator as her Olympic and world titles have passed to other athletes. She watched from a BBC commentary position when Kim Batten claimed her world title and world record in 1995, and from a bar-restaurant in Atlanta when Deon Hemmings succeeded her as Olympic champion.

So upset was Gunnell after pulling up in her Olympic semi-final that not only did she convince herself that her career was over, but also she did not even go to watch the final. "I went out with my family to eat and somebody turned on a television," she said. "I watched it, but I had not planned to.

"As far as I was concerned, I had finished. It was only weeks later that I started to think about coming back. I wanted one last dance in the world of athletics. I did not want my last race to be one where I was carried off the track. Now I can put that behind me."

Gunnell remains true to her 1996 theme, that she would retire rather than face further surgery. "I was told I had a weak Achilles, but I was not prepared to go through surgery again," Gunnell, 30, said. "I had to decide whether I wanted to gamble, take two months off, come back and see what happens. I am relying on luck. There was no reaction, no pain, today."

Understandably, after having her hopes raised and dashed twice, Gunnell is reluctant to think as far forward as the outdoor world championships in Athens in August, but she has set her sights on the indoor world championships in Paris next month. "I need a good indoor season to give me the confidence for outdoors," she said.

"People ask me why I am having such a big indoor season, but, while I am not injured, I just want to race. I do not know if I will get through to May." She had said that this year would be her last but, now, perhaps not.

"I do not know," she said. "If I get injured, definitely, and, if I have a really good year and win in Athens, part of me will say 'Stop', but there will be a lot of people saying: 'You can't.' The hardest thing is knowing when to finish. Linford [Christie] is showing that now."

Gunnell refuses to look too far ahead as she continues her return from injury

Christie, whose last firm statement was that he had retired from championship competition, continues, at 36, to perform well. He won the 200 metres in 20.70sec, though his classier run was in the 60 metres, in which he finished second to Michael Green, of Jamaica, in 6.56sec.

Colin Jackson won the 60 metres hurdles in 7.47sec and Jamie Baulch set a Welsh record of 46.13sec to win the 400 metres. Saving the best until last, Hicham El Guerrouj, from Morocco, broke Noureddine Morceli's 1,500 metres world record by 2.98sec with 3min. 31.18sec.

☐ Judith Burnet, of England, finished fourth in the Valenica marathon in Spain yesterday. She recorded 3hr 06min 04sec to trail in behind Tina Maria Ramos, of Portugal, who finished in 2hr 53min 35sec.

BOWLS

Duff claims second title in runaway fashion

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

HUGH DUFF'S 7-3, 7-4, 7-3 victory over the favourite, Andy Thomson, in the Saga world indoor singles final at Preston Guild Hall yesterday, completed a period of rehabilitation for the Cumbernauld man, who seemed to have faded from prominence after winning his first world indoor title nine years ago.

"I lost my way a bit and was taken advantage of in the early 1990s," Duff said, "but I feel I'm now the master of my own destiny, and I'm delighted to have regained the title."

Duff was sent home from the outdoor international series in Llanelli in 1995 for breaking a team curfew, but bounced back to win the International Open that autumn and reached the final of the world indoor singles championship last year.

The style of his win was quite different from that he had used at Alexandra Palace in 1988, when he drew monotonously to the jack and dominated every opponent. Then, his first two bowls were so effective that he could have kept his third and fourth in his bag.

Yesterday, and on the way to the final, his drawing was suspect, but he showed that he has learnt a whole new game, and is now able to get out of trouble with aggressive retrieval shots.

"It was Hugh's conversion shots that did all the damage, especially in the first set," Thomson said. "On one end, I was lying four shots, and he got a slightly fortunate result to take the shot, but, by the end, he was outdrawing me, and deserved to win."

On Saturday, in an all-English pairs final, Mervyn King and Tony Allcock, the favourites, defeated Duncan Robinson and Brett Morley, from Nottingham, the champions of England, 7-0, 7-5, 7-6, 7-4.

King fully justified, with some panache, his selection as Allcock's new partner, taking the place of David Bryant, who had helped Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, to six titles in 12 years. Morley, at skip, tried gallantly, but in vain, to stem the tide.

Sponsors need to nourish as well as promote

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Sports sponsorship is booming as the private sector moves to cash in on the increasingly high television profile of leading events. Total sponsorship in Great Britain rose nearly 20 per cent last year to a record £340 million — more than double the amount raised ten years ago.

Yet the bald figures conceal the reality that the money is almost entirely feeding into the leading sports — especially newly-professionalised rugby union and cash-rich Premiership football.

Almost three-quarters of the increase in sponsorship in 1996 stemmed from the one-off money generated by Euro 96, which totalled £38.5 million.

Nearly 1,000 sports sponsorship deals were signed during the year, but just 76 involved grass-roots, school or youth projects.

There is a serious danger, despite recent calls by both main political parties to improve funding of youth-based sports, that private sector involvement will be limited to glossy, high-profile events such as the five nations' championship. Sponsors inevitably want some return on their investment and the profile-raising television coverage of leading events is hard to resist. Such an elitist approach to sporting investment, however, could prove counter-productive over the medium term.

Some businesses have recognised this. BT has invested £750,000 in school sport sponsorship schemes, while the Midland Bank has earmarked around £1 million to encourage junior tennis projects — building on a project that has already been running for 12 years.

A few minority sports have also benefited from substanial sponsorship projects at grass-roots level. Sabre Fund Management has donated some £120,000 to the British Amateur Wrestling Association for a development programme that has led to nearly 8,000 new participants in the sport. Sainsbury's has pumped £115,000 into a "basketball for all" roadshow and a three-a-side school competition.

The Government has also tried to play a part in encouraging investment at a lower level, establishing the sportsmatch scheme to match private sector donations with government money. The scheme has provided more than £12 million since its launch in 1992 for projects that range from encouraging cricket in primary schools to a junior ice hockey programme.

Yet for all the political rhetoric surrounding school and junior sport at present, the government contribution to the scheme was actually cut from £3.7 to £3.2 million in the Budget. It has been left to the National Lottery to fill the financing gap. Here at least, the smaller sports and grass-roots projects do seem to be benefiting.

The latest figures show that nearly £350 million has been awarded to sports projects from lottery schemes. A total of 57 different sports received money, mostly for schemes costing less than £100,000. A Humberside school, for instance, received £60,000 to develop a state-of-the-art netball centre. The largest single grant so far is £12.5 million, earmarked for a new ice arena complex in Sheffield, while swimming has received the largest total amount of funding, at £64 million. Even truly small sports, though, such as trampolining and tug of war, have secured some cash.

However, money from the lottery is not secure — its distribution priorities can change and it cannot continue to prop up lower-level sport for ever. Until the grass-roots can persuade business — and some of the greedier governing bodies — that it deserves a fair slice of sponsorship money, the much heralded revival of British sport remains in the balance.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

BASKETBALL: COACH INSISTS THAT MANCHESTER CAN STILL MAKE PLAY-OFFS

Whelton gives Irish vote of confidence

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

PLENTY of players have come in for criticism at Manchester Giants this season from Joe Whelton, the club's coach, but Colin Irish is a big exception. The arrival of Irish, the 6ft 6in former England international, last month, after his release from Cholet, the French club, was expected to accelerate the Giants' Budweiser League title bid, but the effect has been just the opposite.

Manchester's run of four defeats in five games has put them in danger of missing the play-offs. "You can't put it down to Colin Irish," Whelton said. "Colin will be fine, but he's had to make an adjustment. He had not played a regular season game since November and his timing and his shooting have been off."

There are four realistic title contenders, but one of the next five, which include the Giants and Leicester Riders — their conquerors on Saturday — will definitely be excluded from the play-offs. "It won't be us," Whelton said. "We'll be fine. I can guarantee that."

By the time Irish came off the bench to hit ten points, the Giants were well on their way to a 93-72 home defeat in front of a crowd of 9,307 in the Nynex Arena, the best in the Budweiser League this season. Despite 17 points apiece from Mark Robinson and Michael Brown, the Giants succumbed to seven three-pointers from Leicester, whose outstanding marksmen were Justin Phoenix (25 points), Leon McGee (18) and Nate Reinking (17).

"There's a certain amount of complacency," Whelton said. "The guys have got to be more professional and decide whether they want to be here next season. If not, there's going to be a bunch of fresh faces. When I came back here this season, too many players were on existing contracts. I couldn't do much about that."

The Leopards lost 91-89 to Newcastle Eagles, the decisive three-pointer coming 17 seconds from time from Chris Fite, while Tony Dorsey led Birmingham Bullets to a 94-84 win away to Derby Storm with 30 points. Thames Valley Tigers, still seething from the previous evening's contentious 105-104 overtime defeat away by Worthing Bears, took their anger out on Hemel and Watford Royals, with a 118-85 victory.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 31628 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF RESIDENTIAL RECOVERIES PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 10th December 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Birmingham for the confirmation that the sum standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company as at 31 March 1996 being £312,703 be reduced by £250,000 and that such sum be applied in repaying capital to the holders of the Ordinary Shares of 50 pence in the capital of the Company on the register of members as at 5.00pm on 1 October 1996.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Judge Boggis QC in the Chancery Division at 33 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6DS on 24 February 1997 at 10.00am.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the said Share Premium Account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition shall be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 31st day of January 1997
Eversheds, 10 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 3LX Solicitors for the above-named Company (Ref: MRL/28) Tel: 0121 233 2001

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Institute of Buddhist Studies
(formerly known as the Institute of Tibetan Studies)
Scheme
Reference: CED/44224/CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Winckworth & Pemberton, 35 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LR (Mr A J Taylor) or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

BELL CANADA INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
(Registered in England No. 2764470)
Proposed payment out of capital pursuant to Section 171 of the Companies Act 1985

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") that:
(a) Bell Canada International Holdings Limited (the Company) has by a Special Resolution passed on 30 January 1997 approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring by redemption a total of 410,098 Class "H" Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each in its own share capital;
(b) the permissible capital payment (as defined in Section 171 of the Act) for such shares is £90,090,248.30;
(c) the statutory declarations of the Company's directors and the report of the Company's auditors required by Section 173 of the Act in respect of such payment out of capital are available for inspection by any member or creditor of the Company at the Company's registered office at Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA during business hours on any day (except a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) up to and including 6 March 1997; and
(d) any creditor of the Company may at any time up to and including 6 March 1997 apply to the High Court of Justice under Section 176 of the Act for an order prohibiting such payment out of capital.

30 January 1997
R J Ashmore
For Hackwood Secretaries Limited, Secretary
Registered Office: Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, LONDON EC2V 7JA

Bridgeside of Wymondham Limited

Registered Number: 02928311. Nature of Business: Truck Repair. Trade Classification: 07 Engineering & Allied Industries. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 27 January 013753900301997. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): National Westminster. Type of Security: Fixed and Floating Charge. Date of Security: 1 February 1996. Names of persons appointed: L A Manning and E V Frankley both of Bulcher Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF Office Holder Nos: 6477 and 8291)

No. 00140 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF TEESSIDE POWER LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 10th January 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £247,906,001 to £64,000,001.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 12th day of February 1997.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the Hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of February 1997
Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ
Solicitors for the above-named Company
C3962011

X.S. RETAIL LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K P Barry, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 27th January 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 27th January 1997
K P BARRY, FCA, Liquidator

Pilgrim Estates Plc
in Members Voluntary Liquidation

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I Lee Manning of Bulcher Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, give notice that on 28 January 1997 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 28th February 1997 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Lee Manning of 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Note: This notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Dated: 29 January 1997
Lee Manning - Liquidator.

NETWORK OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, on 12th February 1997 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 28th January 1997
M COLLINS, Director

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic Football Club Limited.
REGISTERED NUMBER: 00137401
FORMER COMPANY NAME: Boscombe Football & Athletic Club Company Limited.
TRADING NAME: AFC Bournemouth

Notice is hereby given that on 24 January 1997, A D Lewis and A W Brierley of Arthur Andersen, PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above company by Lloyds Bank Plc under the powers conferred in a debenture dated 19 June 1984 containing fixed and floating charges over the assets and undertakings of the company.

Dated this 28th day of January 1997
A D LEWIS and A W BRIERLEY
Joint Administrative Receivers

SURFSTYLE LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, J.J. Schapira, ACA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 28th January 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 28th January 1997
J J SCHAPIRA ACA, Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Muriel Adey Trust Fund
Scheme for the reconstitution of the body of Trustees
Reference: JP/244829/27219/C2(Liv Admin)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Newnham College, Cambridge CB3 9DF, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2nd Floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool L3 4DQ quoting reference above. Comments or representations can be made within one month of today.

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

International indoor meeting

STUTTGART: Men: 60m: 1, M Green (Jam) 6.56sec; 2, L Christie (GB) 6.56; 3, D Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6.58. 200m: 1, Christie 20.70; 2, M Blume (Ger) 20.84; 3, R Griffin (US) 20.85. 400m: 1, J Baulch (GB) 46.13; 2, D Hall (US) 46.19; 3, J Rouser (US) 46.38. 800m: 1, N Motchebon (Ger) 1min 46.40sec; 2, F Onyancha (Ken) 1.46.87; 3, J Dehmel (Ger) 1.46.88. 1,500m: 1, H El Guerrouj (Mor) 3.31.18 (world record); 2, H Gebrselassie (Eth) 3.32.39; 3, R Stenzel (Ger) 3:37.64. 3,000m: 1, B Jabbour (Mor) 7:40.74; 2, S Kipkorir (Ken) 7.41.28; 3, S Sghir (Mor) 7.42.30. 60m hurdles: 1, C Jackson (GB) 7.47; 2, M Crear (US) 7.52; 3, F Busemann (Ger) 7.61. Pole vault: 1, V Strogalev (Russ) 5.80m; 2, D Ecker (Ger) 5.70; 3, P Botschkarjov (Russ) 5.70. Women: 60m: 1, C Opara (Nigeria) 7.08; 2, I Privalova (Russ) 7.09; 3, M Paschke (Ger) 7.16. 200m: 1, M Frazier (Jam) 23.15; 2, S Felix (Fr) 23.23; 3, P Davis (Bah) 23.26. 400m: 1, G Breuer (Ger) 51.50; 2, N Kaiser-Brown (US) 52.15; 3, D Hemmings (Jam) 52.38. 800m: 1, H Meissner (Ger) 2:02.49; 2, L Kisabaka (Ger) 2.02.84. 1,500m: 1, A Wickus (US) 4:10.81; 2, C Gheorghiu (Rom) 4.11.77; 3, S Kühnemund (Ger) 4.11.78. 60m hurdles: 1, M Freeman (Aus) 7.91; 2, S Lauchova (Russ) 8.10; 3, C Sonn-Jung (Ger) 8.10. High jump: 1, J Ljachova (Russ) 1.92m; 2, N Zelenskiene (Lith) 1.90. Long jump: 1, H Drechsler (Ger) 6.95; 2, S Jaklofsky (Holl) 6.61; 3, A Kaczmarek (Pol) 6.59.

Road running

VALENCIA, Spain: Valencia marathon: Men: 1, E Alcaina (Sp) 2hr 18min 7sec; 2, D Sanchez (Sp) 2.18.23; 3, F Zuloaga (Sp) 2:19:30; 4, E Gutierrez (Sp) 2:24.32; 5, A Ozaibn (Mor) 2.25.33. Women: 1, T M Ramos (Por) 2:53:35; 2, C Marti (Sp) 2:54.34; 3, J Casas (Sp) 3.04.59; 4, J Burnet (GB) 3:06.04; 5, M Terrar (Sp) 3.11.11

BEPPU, Japan: Mainichi marathon: 1, R Vera (Ec) 2hr 12min; 2, G Thys (SA) 2:13:14; 3, K Katsube (Japan) 2.13.31

Track and field

BUDAPEST: International meeting: Men: 60m: 1, D Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6.59sec; 2, A Deji (Nigeria) 6.61; 3, O Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6.64. 200m: 1, E Wymeersch (Bel) 21.12sec; 2, D Braithwaite (GB) 21.23; 3, J Williams (US) 21.26. 400m: 1, S Belosak (Slovakia) 47.06sec; 2, P Nyilasi (Hun) 47.23; 3, S Brankovic (Yug) 47.68. 1,500m: 1, M Kigen (Ken) 3min 38.42sec; 2, V Sabunin (Russ) 3.38.48; 3, W Tanui (Ken) 3.41.39. Triple jump: 1, O Tibor (Hun) 16.69m; 2, G Georgiev (Bul) 16.63; 3, E Urrutia (Cuba) 16.61. Pole vault: 1, M Tarasov (Russ) 5.90m; 2, A Andy (Fr) 5.70; 3, J Galfione (Fr) 5.70. Women: 60m: 1, C Ajunwa (Nigeria) 7.13sec; 2, J Cuthbert (Jam) 7.26; 3, N Merzljakova (Russ) 7.27. 200m: 1, J Cuthbert (Jam) 23.09sec; 2, Y Lesova (Russ) 23.23; 3, A Bikar (Slovakia) 23.42. 400m: 1, O Kotljarova (Russ) 52.01sec; 2, I Tirlea (Rom) 52.47; 3, H Benesova (Cz) 52.55. 800m: 1, I Samorokova (Russ) 2min 01.69sec; 2, N Douhnova (Bela) 2:01.79; 3, L Formanova (Cz) 2.02.02. Long jump: 1, T Vaszi (Hun) 6.66m; 2, L Ninova (Austria) 6.52; 3, E Smitchoukova (Russ) 6.29. Triple jump: 1, I Lasovskaya (Russ) 14.74m; 2, G Chistiakova (Slovakia) 13.88; 3, P Lobinger (Ger) 13.74.

BIRMINGHAM: Midland Counties open meeting: Men: 60m: 1, D Ladejo (Belgrave) 6.73sec; 2, T Box (Sale) 6.90. High jump: S Ohrland (Chelmsford) 2.20m. Women: 60m: J Whitlock (Trafford) 7.45sec. Pole vault: S Hartley (Spenborough) 2.95m.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Puma grand prix indoor meeting: Men: Pole vault: A Hardy (Blackheath) 4.00m. Long jump: S Phillips (Rugby) 7.42. Triple jump: F Agyepong (Shaftesbury Barnet) 14.84. Shot: 1, L Newman (Belgrave) 18.11; 2, M Edwards (Charnwood) 16.41; 3, E Udechuku (Blackheath) 15.91. Women: Pole vault: S Dicker (Shaftesbury Barnet) 3.10m. Triple jump: K Skeggs (Ashford) 12.07. Shot: 1, J Oakes (Croydon) 18.04; 2, T Axten (Shaftesbury Barnet) 15.12; 3, M Lynes (Essex Ladies) 15.06.

Cross country

CACERES, Spain: Clubs European Cup: Men 10,000m: 1, P Guerra (Por) 29min 46sec; 2, A Gomez (Sp) 29.57; 3, E Henriques (Por) 29.59; 4, J M Garcia (Sp) 30.07; 5, C Stephenson (GB) 30.20. Clubs: 1, Lisbon Marathon Club (Por) 21pts; 2, New Balance (Sp) 23; 3, Bingley (GB) 68; 4, Mullighan (GB) 79; 5, Cardiff (GB) 124

TOURCOING, France: IAAF world cross challenge: Men: 1, B Barmasai (Ken) 27min 58sec; 2, L Chege (Ken) 28.14; 3, H Mokamba (Ken) 28.19; 5, A Pearson (GB) 28.25; 13, J Downes (Ire) 28.52. Women: 1, C McKiernan (Ire) 17.08; 2, C de Rauck (SA) 17:12; 3, P Radcliffe (GB) 17:20; 6, L Elliott (GB) 17.43; 8, S Rigg (GB) 17.53; 17, L Talbot (GB) 18.17; 19, A Davies (GB) 18.23.

LEEDS: British universities championships: Men: 1, S Wilkinson (Loughborough) 33min 14sec; 2, J Loader (Bristol) 33.30; 3, D Leggate (Cambridge) 33.34. Team: Loughborough. Women: 1, L Wolfenden (Leeds) 18.18; 2, P Thackray (Sheffield) 18.23; 3, S Salmon (Loughborough) 18.30. Team: Sheffield.

INTER-CLUB MOB MATCH (Putney Vale, 7.5 miles): 1, M Goatley (Thames Hare and Hounds) 41min 30sec; 2, A Harran (South London Harriers); 3, I Lamplough (South London Harriers). Veteran: H Arnold (Thames Hare and Hounds). Over 55: D Claxton (South London Harriers) 50.09. Over 60: K Space (Thames Hare and Hounds) 50.31. Over 65: C Chataway (Thames Hare and Hounds) 56.44. Women: R Disley (Thames Hare and Hounds) 56.31; 2, K Southall (South London Harriers) 58.19; 3, N Chalke (South London Harriers) 1:00.18. Teams: 1, South London Harriers 836pts; 2, Thames Hare and Hounds 994.

THURROCK: Essex League: Men: 1, R Denmark (Basildon) 30min 37sec; 2, J Freeman (Chelmsford) 31:45; 3, M Whelan (Chelmsford) 32.11. Team: Chelmsford. Women: J Swallow (Brentwood) 18.48. Team: Colchester and Tendring.

BRISTOL: Gwent League: Men: 1, M Rees (Swansea) 32min 14sec; 2, D Hiscox (Bridgend) 32:53; 3, G Davies (Bridgend) 32:56. Team: Swansea. Women: L Field (Bristol) 22.42. Team: Great Western.

Fell running

HALIFAX: Ogden Moors race (6M, 700ft): Men: 1, M Keys (Rossendale) 31min 12sec (record); 2, G Patten (Pudsey and Bramley) 31.34; 3, T O'Kell (Stockport) 31.46; 4, G Devine (Pudsey and Bramley) 31:52; 5, S Oldfield (Bradford Airedale, M40) 32.12; 6, G Oldfield (Bradford Airedale) 32:23. Team: Pudsey and Bramley 13pts. Women: 1, S Rowell (Pudsey and Bramley) 35.08 (record); 2, C Greenwood (Bingley) 38.52; 3, K Drake (Spenborough, W35) 39.37

BADMINTON

NORWICH: English national championships: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: R Doling (Kent) bt G Hurrell (Hampshire) 15-3, 15-3; S Pandya (Staffordshire) bt R Nock (Gloucestershire) 15-12, 2-15, 18-16; P Bush (Wiltshire) bt M Edge (Lancashire) 15-7, 15-3; P Knowles (Kent) bt M Constable (Warwickshire) 15-5, 15-13. Semi-finals: Pandya bt Doling 15-8, 4-15, 15-10; Knowles bt Bush 5-15, 15-4, 15-3. Final: Knowles bt Pandya 15-1, 15-1. Men's doubles: Semi-finals: S Archer (Worcestershire) and C Hunt (Lancashire) bt J Robertson (Northamptonshire) and N Robertson (Nottinghamshire) 11-15, 15-6, 15-4; N Ponting (Gloucestershire) and J Quinn (Middlesex) bt J Anderson (Essex) and I Pearson (Essex) 15-10, 15-9. Final: Archer and Hunt bt Ponting and Quinn 15-6, 15-4. Women's singles: Quarter-finals: J Mann (Warwickshire) bt P Harrison (Essex) 11-2, 11-0; T Hallam (Staffordshire) bt F Gallup (Sussex) 11-8, 11-2; J Wilmott (Yorkshire) bt D le Feuvre (Jersey) 11-5, 11-1, J Muggeridge (Kent) bt R Panteney (Gloucestershire) 11-1, 11-4. Semi-finals: Mann bt Hallam 11-8, 12-10; Muggeridge bt Wilmott 11-2, 11-2. Final: Mann bt Muggeridge 12-11, 11-4. Women's doubles: Semi-finals: J Bradbury (Oxfordshire) and J Muggeridge (Kent) bt E Chaffin (Essex) and S Hardaker (Kent) 16-18, 15-9, 15-9; N Beck (Buckinghamshire) and J Davies (Lancashire) bt J Goode (Sussex) and G Gowers (Hertfordshire) 15-5, 10-15, 15-6. Mixed doubles: Semi-finals: Hunt and D Kellogg (Derbyshire) bt Ponting and Bradbury 15-8, 15-5; Archer and Goode bt Anderson and Gowers 15-7, 15-8. Final: Archer and Goode bt Hunt and Kellogg 15-5, 15-2

BIATHLON

OSRBLIE, Slovakia: World championships: Men (10km): 1, W Pallhuber (It) 26min 24.4sec; 2, R Cattaruzza (It) 26.41.2; 3, O Ryschenkov (Bela) 26.42.7. (12.5km): 1, V Maigourov (Russ) 33min 21.9sec; 2, S Tarasov (Russ) 33.28.8; 3, O E Björndalen (Nor) 33.32.5. Women (7.5km): 1, O Romasko (Russ) 21:16.8; 2, O Zubrilova (Ukr) 21.59.5; 3, M Walin-Forsberg (Swe) 22.11.8.

BOBSLEIGH

ST MORITZ: World championship: Four-man final (provisional result): 1, W Hoppe, S Ruher, R Hannemann and C Embach (Ger I) 3min 59.38sec; 2, D Wiese, C Bartsch, M Zimmermann and M Liekmeier (Ger II) at 0.48; 3, B Shimer, C Minton, R Jones and R Olesen (US I) 0.49; 4, S Olsson, D Ward, C Rumbolt and L Poul (GB I) 0.62; 5, B Mingeon, E Hostache, E Le Chanony and M Robert (Fr I) at 1.08sec; 6, H Schoesser, G Habermueller, E Arnold and M Schuetzenauer (Austria I) 1.36; 7, P Lueders, D McEachern, M Hindle and B Hindle (Can I) 1.57

☐ Switzerland team disqualified, appeal pending

BOWLS

PRESTON: Saga world indoor championship: Singles: Semi-finals: H Duff (Scot) bt G Harlow (Eng) 5-7, 7-4, 7-4, 7-6; A Thomson (Eng) bt R Bressey (NZ) 6-7, 5-7, 7-4, 7-4, 7-3. Final: Duff bt Thomson 7-4, 7-3, 7-4. Pairs: Semi-final: M King and A Allcock (Eng) bt K Kerkow and I Schuback (Aus) 7-6, 7-1, 7-2. Final: King and Allcock bt D Robinson and B Morley (Eng) 7-0, 5-7, 7-6, 7-4.

CIS INSURANCE SCOTTISH INDOOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Section A: Dundee 63 East Lothian 86; Edinburgh 88 West Lothian 57; Turriff 80 Aberdeen 69. Section B: Lanarkshire 75 Auchenleck 76; Barnfield 87 Prestwick 76; Cumbernauld 89 Ayr 76. First division: Section A: Stirling 65 Mid Lothian 81; Balbardie 90 Alloa 69; Stonehaven 69 Fraserburgh 87. Section B: Nithsdale 87 Paisley 87, Blantyre 86 Irvine 69; Inverclyde 79 Coatbridge 67

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH INDOOR ASSOCIATION TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: East section: Coed Duon 89 Taff Ely 93; Llynfi 78 Henllys 70; Oakfield 78 St Tydfil 66; Pontcanna 90 Bute 69; Uskmouth 91 Glyncoch 80; Wyllie 70 Ystradfodwg 84. West section: Afan 92 Amman 58; Mumbles 95 Cennen 70; Sospan 75 Jersey Marine 85; St Florence 63 Margam 85; Stepney 90 Oxwich 93; Stradey 109 Penybont 56.

GREENGAUGE WELSH IBA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: East section: Cardiff 161 Islwyn 66; Vale of Glamorgan 114 Merthyr 115; Rhondda 110 Newport 118; Torfaen 124 Taff Ely 129. West section: Ogwr 110 Swansea 100; Dinefwr 88 Llanelli 155; Port Talbot 179 Heatherton 83; Earlswood 151 Pembroke 111. North section: Flint 136 Radnor 97; Bro Ddyfi 133 Sealand 117.

BOXING

SEOUL, South Korea: World Boxing Association junior-lightweight championship: Choi Yong-soo (S Kor, holder) bt Lakva Sim (Mong) pts.

INGLEWOOD, California: Professional light-heavyweight bout: Thomas Hearns (US) bt Ed Dalton (US) ko 5th.

IRVINE, California: Professional junior-lightweight bout (10rnds): Ricardo Fuentes (US) bt Felipe Castillo (Mex) pts.

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Morgan Cup: 1, F G Gansser (Switz) 154.15sec; 2, J B Sunley (GB) 154.39; 3, Lord Wrottesley 154.59; 4, G Pitsch (Switz) 154.74; 5, D von Ribbentrop (Ger) 155.60; 6, M T Pitsch (Switz) 155.66; 7, C Bertschinger (Switz) 155.96; 8, C Tesdorpf (Ger) 157.71. Bott Cup: 1, D C Keller (Switz) 152.97sec; 2, M M K Fischer (Ger) 153.10; 3, W K Shipton (GB) 153.27; 4, U E Schwarzenbach (Switz) 153.60; 5, J L Woolf (GB) 154.28; 6, M U Diethelm (Switz) 154.37

CYCLING

Time-trials

GS STELLA (Funtington, West Sussex, 40km): 1, R Hayles (Team Ambrosia) 57min 11sec (course and event record); 2, T Stevens (Team 2,000) 59:28; 3, M Jones (GS Stella) 1:02:10. Team: GS Stella 3:15:54.

KETTERING FRIENDLY CC (Brigstock, Northamptonshire, 26.4 miles): 1, H Walker (GS Metro) 1:03:20 (course record); 2, G Sherlock (Norwood Paragon) 1:04:41; 3, A Horner (VC Camelot) 1:04:54. Team: GS Metro 3:16:20.

Cyclo cross

MUNICH, Germany: World championships: Elite: 1, D Pontoni (It) 1hr 00min 40sec; 2, T Frischknecht (Switz) at 23sec; 3, L Bramati (It) same time; 4, A van der Poel (Holl) at 35sec; 5, W de Vos (Holl) at 53; 6, E Vervecken (Bel) at 1min 13sec; 7, F-J Nieberding (Ger) 1:25; 8, B Wabel (Switz) 1:39; 9, D Runkel (Switz) same time; 10, P van Santvliet (Bel) 2:04. Nations race: 1, Switzerland 19pts; 2, Italy 22; 3, Holland 26; 4, Belgium 30; 5, Germany 47; 6, France 91; 7, Great Britain 99. Under-23: 1, S Nijs (Bel) 53min 25sec; 2, B Wellens (Bel) at 22sec; 3, C Morel (Fr) at 39; 4, M Martinez (Fr) at 58; 5, G Grommers (Holl) at 1min 27. Juniors: 1, D Rusch (Switz) 46min 14sec; 2, S Toffoletti (It) at 5sec; 3, S Weigold (Ger) at 6; 4, N Dieudonn (Fr) at 8; 5, T Heickmann (Ger) at 11

WOLVERHAMPTON WHEELERS (Alderley Stadium, 12 miles): 1, D Barnett (Ace RT) 1hr 03min 01sec; 2, A Siers (Lichfield City CC) at 5:50; 3, B Evans (Mid Shropshire Wheelers) at 8:42.

CHEVIN CHASERS (Allestree Park, Derby, 13.5 miles): 1, D Barnett (Ace RT) 52min 22sec; 2, D Alexander (Team Giant-Gripshift) at 1:00; 3, M Willett (Giant-Gripshift) at 3:31.

CARDIFF 100 MILES RCC (Cardiff Athletic Stadium, Leckwith, 12 miles): 1, J Winn (Extreme CC) 50min 30sec; 2, I Jeremiah (Cardiff JIF) at 35sec; 3, J Rees (Rhondda Valley CC) 1:20

HERNE HILL PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION (South London, 13 miles): 1, S Price (Klein-Bikebox) 48min 30sec; 2, G Andrews (unatt) at 40sec; 3, A Tullett (De Werf) at 1:10.

CC TODMORDEN (Centre Vale Park, 11 miles): 1, B Green (Oldham Century RC) 58min 15sec; 2, C Anstey (Hope Technology) at 53sec; 3, S Green (Oldham Century RC) at 2:53.

GOLF

PERTH: Heineken Classic: Leading final scores (Australia unless stated): 273: M A Martin (Sp) 70, 67, 65, 71. 274: F Couples (US) 68, 70, 69, 67. 275: J van de Velde (Fr) 69, 69, 69, 68; M Farry (Fr) 72, 66, 69, 68; F Nobilo (NZ) 65, 69, 70, 70. 276: I Woosnam (Wales) 72, 69, 69, 66; W Riley 71, 66, 69, 70. 277: E Els (SA) 73, 71, 68, 65; R Allenby 70, 68, 71, 68; K Tomori (Japan) 69, 68, 69, 71. 278: G Chalmers 70, 72, 71, 65; G Turner (NZ) 65, 71, 72, 70; R Pampling 68, 73, 66, 71; P Harrington (Ire) 70, 63, 73, 72; P Beales (Eng) 70, 69, 67, 72. 279: R Davis 71, 72, 68, 68; P O'Malley 68, 69, 71, 71. Other scores: 280: R Chapman (Eng) 70, 69, 73, 68; D Carter (Eng) 71, 69, 70, 70. 281: C Montgomerie (Scot) 70, 72, 72, 67; A Coltart (Scot) 71, 72, 69, 69. 282: T Bjorn (Den) 69, 70, 74, 69; D Clarke (N Ire) 70, 69, 71, 72; P Broadhurst (Eng) 70, 69, 70, 73. 283: S Cage (Eng) 69, 73, 71, 70; C Suneson (Sp) 69, 72, 71, 71; M Tunnicliff (Eng) 67, 72, 72, 72; R Gibson (Can) 70, 70, 70, 73; J Robson (Eng) 72, 67, 70, 74; P McGinley (Ire) 72, 65, 69, 77. 284: D Higgins (Ire) 71, 67, 76, 70; F Tarnaud (Fr) 77, 67, 69, 71; M Roberts (Wales) 71, 72, 69, 72. 285: A Sherborne (Eng) 72, 71, 69, 73. 286: L Westwood (Eng) 71, 73, 72, 70; S Ames (Trin) 69, 73, 73, 71. 288: C Mason (Eng) 71, 73, 75, 69; T Gogele (Ger) 72, 70, 76, 70; P Mitchell (Eng) 72, 69, 73, 74; D Chopra (Swe) 71, 72, 70, 75.

PEBBLE BEACH, California: National Pro-am tournament: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 198: D Duval 65, 71, 62. 201: M O'Meara 67, 67, 67; J Furyk 67, 65, 69. 202: J Parnevik (Swe) 65, 70, 67. 205: C Stadler 70, 69, 66; S Elkington (Aus) 70, 66, 69; M Brisky 69, 68, 68; T Woods 70, 72, 63. 206: P Azinger 69, 70, 67; B Henninger 66, 69, 71; T Herron 69, 68, 69; G Day 70, 69, 67; V Singh (Fiji) 67, 68, 71. 207: B Andrade 66, 75, 66; P Mickelson 67, 71, 69; T Watson 68, 71, 68; D Frost (SA) 70, 63, 74; T Lehman 68, 71, 70; T Tryba 68, 67, 72. 208: A Lyle (GB) 72, 67, 70; N Faldo (GB) 67, 70, 72; J Ozaki (Japan) 68, 72, 69.

DURBAN: Players' championship: Leading final scores (South Africa unless stated): 278: N van Rensburg 67, 69, 73, 67. 279: A Cruse 70, 66, 72, 71. 280: R Kaplan 66, 70, 74, 70. 281: D Pappas 72, 73, 72, 64; J Hawkes 68, 67, 77, 69; T van der Walt 72, 68, 74, 67; M Gortana 72, 71, 71, 67; H Barocchi 71, 73, 70, 67. 282: B Ott (US) 72, 68, 75, 67; A Pitts (US) 71, 69, 75, 67; M McNulty (Zim) 71, 69, 74, 68; W Bradley 70, 70, 72, 70; T Dodds (Nam) 73, 65, 72, 72.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: St Louis 5 Ottawa 1; Montreal 4 Tampa Bay 1; Florida 3 Boston 1; San Jose 6 Calgary 3; Vancouver 2 NY Islanders 1 (OT); Los Angeles 5 Hartford 3. Saturday: Buffalo 3 Dallas 1; Toronto 3 New Jersey 3; Edmonton 1 NY Islanders 0; Anaheim 6 Hartford 3.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Philadelphia	29	15	7	161	128	65
Florida	26	15	10	147	118	62
NY Rangers	26	20	7	182	147	59
New Jersey	24	17	8	129	123	56
Washington	21	25	5	134	139	47
Tampa Bay	18	25	6	137	156	42
NY Islanders	16	26	9	137	149	41

Northeast division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Pittsburgh	28	18	5	188	156	61
Buffalo	27	19	5	148	133	59
Hartford	20	23	7	146	163	47
Montreal	19	25	9	168	187	47
Boston	19	25	6	144	173	44
Ottawa	16	23	10	132	144	42

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Dallas	29	18	4	154	123	62
Detroit	23	17	9	148	112	55
St Louis	25	24	4	160	165	54
Phoenix	22	25	4	140	161	48
Chicago	19	26	8	133	141	46
Toronto	19	33	1	150	188	39

Pacific division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Colorado	31	13	8	177	122	70
Edmonton	25	22	5	164	151	55
Vancouver	24	24	2	157	164	50
Anaheim	20	24	6	144	150	46
Calgary	19	26	6	129	151	44
San Jose	19	26	5	132	158	43
Los Angeles	18	28	6	141	181	42

SUPERLEAGUE: Friday: Sheffield 8 Manchester 4. Saturday: Cardiff 4 Ayr 0; Nottingham 7 Basingstoke 2; Sheffield 3 Bracknell 0.

GJÖVIK, Norway: International match: Norway 2 Canada 4.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Timperley 8 Heaton Mersey 8; Hulmeians 11 Poynton 6; Cheadle Hulme 6 Cheadle 15. Daily Telegraph Senior Flags: Semi-final: Mellor 12 Stockport 2. Stockport Cup: Semi-finals: Mellor A 15 Stockport B 5; Wilmslow 8 Norbury 10. Daily Telegraph Lancashire Cup: Semi-finals: Heaton Mersey A 12 Boardman and Eccles A 11; Old Waconians A 11 Heaton Mersey Guild 10. Daily Telegraph Junior Flags: Semi-finals: Rochdale 16 Stockport 7; Ashton 2 Cheadle A 12.

NORDIC SKIING

HAKUBA, Japan: World Cup event: 1, M Stecher (Austria) 42min 1.9sec (231 jump points); 2, S Lajunen (Fin) 41:27.8 (220); 3, L Rygl (Cz) 41:17.6 (218); 4, T E Elden (Nor) 38:48.0 (185); 5, K Ogiwara (Japan) 42:30.9 (221); 6, A Longo (It) 42:21.5 (211.5); 7, W Stoljarov (Russ) 42:55.2 (216.5); 8, F Guy (Fr) 39:59.0 (187); 9, T Nurmela (Fin) 40:54.6 (194.5); 10, G Myhre (Nor) 40:03.8 (186). Leading World Cup standings: 1, Lajunen 875pts; 2, Stecher 805; 3, J Mantila (Fin) 664; 4, H Manninen (Fin) 522; 5, K T Apeland (Nor) 428.

ROWING

PETERBOROUGH: Head of the river: Eights: 1, Imperial College/Queen's Tower A 14min 34sec (open winners); 2, Imperial College/Queen's Tower B 14:38; 3, Granta (Cambridge lightweights) 14.58 (senior three winners). Other division winners: Senior two: Shrewsbury Sch 15min 33sec. Junior: Abingdon Sch 15min 14sec. Novices: Imperial Coll 16min 05sec. Women's Open: Imperial College/Queen's Tower 16min 36sec. Women's senior two: Cambridge University 16min 54sec. Women's senior three: Imperial College/Queen's Tower 17min 21sec. Fours: Men: Open coxless: Imperial College/Queen's Tower 9min. Open coxed: Imperial College/Queen's Tower 9min 25sec. Senior two: Auriol/Kensington 10min 11sec. Senior three: Eton 10min 12sec. Novice: Imperial College 9min 57sec. Veteran: Nottingham BC 10min 15sec. Women: Open coxless: Imperial College/Queen's Tower 10min 19sec. Open quads: Derby 10min 10sec. Senior three quads: Star/Dame Alice Harper 10min 40sec. Pairs: Open: Newcastle RGS 10min 42sec. Senior two: Imperial Coll 10min 47sec. Sculls: Open doubles: Peterborough City 10min 20sec. Senior two doubles: Poplar and Blackwall 9min 53sec. Open singles: G Pooley (Leander) 10min 21sec.

RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB MATCHES: Leigh 10 Oldham 64; Bradford 38 Keighley 20; Castleford 20 Featherstone 24; Lancashire Lynx 4 Wigan 52.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill 12 West Hull 12; Haworth 34 Mayfield 12; Leigh Miners 19 Saddleworth 20; Lock Lane 38 Egremont 8; Oldham St Annes 27 Wigan St Patricks 15; Woolston 28 Beverley 4. First division: Askam 20 Leigh East 14; Barrow Island 30 Eastmoor 12; Blackbrook 20 Moldgreen 24; Oulton 19 Walney Central 19; Thornhill 25 East Leeds 17; Wigan St Judes 15 Millom 10. Second division: Dewsbury Moor 20 Ovenden 33; Featherstone Amateur 13 Eccles 17; Hull Dockers 16 Shaw Cross 18; Milford 20 Skirlaugh 15; Normanton 12 New Earswick 12; York Acorn 8 Redhill 30.

TOWNSVILLE, Australia: World nine-a-side tournament: Australia 20 Western Samoa 8; Fiji 12 Cook Islands 8; Papua New Guinea 38 United States 8; New Zealand 50 Japan 4; South Africa 10 Tonga 10; Great Britain 20 France 0. Australia 26 Fiji 10; Western Samoa 16 Papua New Guinea 4; Cook Islands 24 United States 8; New Zealand 34 South Africa 8; Great Britain 46 Japan 0; France 8 Tonga 6; Western Samoa 18 Cook Islands 10; Fiji 18 United States 8; Australia 34 Papua New Guinea 4; Great Britain 12 New Zealand 10; South Africa 18 France 4; Tonga 44 Japan 0. Semi-finals: New Zealand 12 Australia 10; Western Samoa 10 Great Britain 0. Final: New Zealand 16 Western Samoa 0. Plate: Semi-finals: Fiji 24 France 8; South Africa 8 Cook Islands 4. Final: Fiji 22 South Africa 6. Bowl: Semi-finals: Papua New Guinea 20 Japan 0; Tonga 26 United States 4. Final: Tonga 16 Papua New Guinea 8.

SKIING

LAAX, Switzerland: Women's World Cup downhill: 1, W Zelenskaja (Russ) 1min 24.98sec; 2 equal, R Goetschl (Austria) 1:25.07 and H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1:25.07; 4, H Lindh (US) 1:25.30; 5, I Kostner (It) 1:25.32. Leading downhill standings: 1, Zurbriggen 349pts; 2, Goetschl 307; 3, Seizinger 266; 4, Kostner 241; 5, Zelenskaja 223. World Cup slalom: 1, C Riegler (NZ) 1min 20.75sec; 2, L Magoni (It) 1:20.82; 3 equal, M Accola (Switz) and P Wiberg (Swe) 1:20.83; 5, E Eder (Austria) 1:21.01; 6, S Egger (Austria) 1:21.12; 7, T Bakke (Nor) 1:21.42; 8, D Compagnoni (It) 1:21.53; 9, P Chauvet (Fr) 1:21.56; 10, Y Nowen (Swe) 1:21.71. Leading slalom standings: 1, Wiberg 570pts; 2, Riegler 389; 3, Compagnoni 327; 4, Chauvet 285; 5, Eder 261. Leading overall World Cup standings: 1, Wiberg 1,425pts; 2, K Seizinger (Ger) 945; 3, H Gerg (Ger) 818; 4, Compagnoni 787; 5, A Wachter (Austria) 654.

SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Regal Welsh Open: Semi-final: S Hendry (Scot) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-2. Final: Hendry bt M King (Eng) 9-2.

SWIMMING

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany: World Cup: Sixth round: Men: 100m freestyle: 1, M Klim (Aus) 48.62sec; 2, S Aschkhmin (Kaz) 48.93; 3, N Ivan (Rom) 49.19. 400m freestyle: 1, J Hoffmann (Ger) 3min 40.78sec (European record); 2, M Rosolino (It) 3:45.61; 3, T Lohfink (Ger) 3:48.82; 6, J Salter (GB) 3:52.78. 100m backstroke: 1, V Selkov (Russ) 53.28; 2, A Radley (Aus) 53.56; 3, H Itoi (Japan) 54.13. 50m breaststroke: 1, M Warnecke (Ger) 27.34; 2, J Kruppa (Ger) 27.79; 3, R Maden (GB) 28.12. 200m breaststroke: 1, S Lopukhov (Russ) 2:08.28; 2, A Korneev (Russ) 2:08.95; 3, Y Okita (Japan) 2:11.51. 50m butterfly: 1, K Ushkov (Russ) 23.67; 2, M Foster (GB) 23.72; 3, M Klim (Aus) 23.92; 5, J Hickman (GB) 24.40. 200m butterfly: 1, D Pankratov (Russ) 1:52.64 (world record); 2, Hickman 1:55.00 (British record); 3, C Bremer (Ger) 1:56.58. 100m medley: 1, M Wouda (Holl) 54.59; 2, M Dunn (Aus) 54.81; 3, J Kruppa (Ger) 54.85. 400m medley: 1, Wouda 4:05.59 (world record); 2, Dunn 4:05.62 (Commonwealth record); 3, U Volk (Ger) 4:13.74. Women: 50m freestyle: 1, S Volker (Ger) 24.69; 2, K Meissner (Ger) 25.18; 3, S Osygus (Ger) 25.24. 200m freestyle: 1, A Buschschulte (Ger) 1:57.46; 2, N Bowron (Aus) 1:59.24; 3, M Norskov (Den) 1:59.66. 800m freestyle: 1, Bowron 8:30.35; 2, K Vlieghuis (Holl) 8:34.10; 3, A Muller (Ger) 8:42.15. 50m backstroke: 1, N Zhivanevskaia (Russ) 28.06; 2, Buschschulte 28.67; 3, B Lu (China) 28.89; 6, S Price (GB) 29.81. 200m backstroke: 1, Buschschulte 2:08.60; 2, S Herbst (Ger) 2:08.92; 3, C Rund (Ger) 2:10.83. 100m breaststroke: 1, X Han (China) 1:06.90; 2, T Sloan (Can) 1:07.96; 3, M Beers (Holl) 1:09.49. 100m butterfly: 1, L Liu (China) 58.42; 2, M Jacobsen (Den) 59.64; 3, S Skou (Den) 1:00.69. 200m medley: 1, S Rolph (GB) 2:11.46; 2, S Herbst (Ger) 2:12.01; 3, B Coada (Rom) 2:14.00.

TENNIS

ZAGREB: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: G Rusedski (GB) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-5, 6-3; J Sánchez (Sp) bt G Etlis (Arg) 6-0, 7-6; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 6-0, 1-1 ret; T Enqvist (Swe) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 6-3. Semi-finals: Ivanisevic bt Sánchez 6-2, 6-4; Rusedski bt Enqvist 6-4, 6-4. Final: Ivanisevic bt Rusedski 7-6, 4-6, 7-6.

TOKYO: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: S Graf (Ger) bt I Majoli (Cro) 6-2, 6-3; B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-1, 6-0; A Huber (Ger) bt L Davenport (US) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; M Hingis (Switz) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-0, 6-1. Semi-finals: Hingis bt Huber 6-1, 5-7, 6-2; Graf bt Schultz-McCarthy 6-1, 7-5.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers 0 Guildford 4; Canterbury 2 Reading 3; Havant 1 Cannock 3; Hounslow 6 Old Loughtonians 2; Southgate 2 East Grinstead 5; Surbiton 1 Teddington 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	16	11	2	3	63	33	35
Reading	16	10	1	5	55	44	31
Teddington	16	10	1	5	51	40	31
East Grinstead	16	8	6	2	50	34	30
Guildford	16	8	2	6	57	46	26
O Loughtonians	16	8	2	6	47	36	26
Southgate	16	8	1	7	43	43	25
Canterbury	16	7	3	6	48	42	24
Hounslow	16	4	4	8	31	45	16
Barford Tigers	16	4	2	10	28	53	14
Surbiton	16	3	4	9	30	56	13
Havant	16	0	2	14	20	49	2

FIRST DIVISION: Sheffield 2 St Albans 2; Oxford University 3 Stourport 3; Oxford Hawks 4 Trojans 2; Lewes 4 Warrington 2; Isca 3 Harleston Magpies 1; Indian Gymkhana 3 Gloucester City 1; Beeston 5 Firebrands 0; Blueharts 1 Edgbaston 4; Bournville 3 Doncaster 3; Bromley 4 Crostyx 1; Brooklands 5 City of Portsmouth 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beeston	14	13	1	0	61	14	40
Doncaster	14	11	2	1	64	23	35
Bournville	14	8	2	4	37	24	26
Indian Gym	14	7	3	4	38	29	24
St Albans	15	7	3	5	37	31	24
Oxford Hawks	13	7	1	5	26	26	22
Warrington	15	6	4	5	33	39	22
Blueharts	14	6	3	5	33	30	21
Isca	14	5	6	3	28	28	21
Firebrands	15	6	3	6	33	44	21
Stourport	14	5	5	4	44	36	20
Brooklands	14	6	2	6	33	26	20
Gloucester City	15	6	1	8	26	38	19
Sheffield	14	5	3	6	37	36	18
Edgbaston	15	5	3	7	31	32	18
Harleston M	15	4	5	6	25	29	17
Portsmouth	14	5	2	7	28	38	17
Lewes	14	5	1	8	35	43	16
Bromley	14	3	5	6	29	48	14
Oxford Univ	14	3	3	8	20	32	12
Crostyx	14	3	3	8	21	39	12
Hull	14	2	5	7	29	40	11
Trojans	15	1	4	10	20	45	7

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians 1 Fareham 3; Chichester 3 Bournemouth 3; High Wycombe 5 Ashford 0; Maidenhead 4 Ramgarhia 1; Old Kingstonians 0 Gore Court 0; Old Whitgiftians 3 Beckenham 2; Spencer 2 Richmond 4; Wimbledon 1 Tunbridge Wells 2; Woking 2 Winchester 1; Wokingham 1 Hampstead/Westminster 7. Hampshire/Surrey: Portsmouth 5 Camberley 1; Oxted 1 Oxshott 5; Old Cranleighans 3 Old Mid-Whitgiftians 1; Dulwich 1 Epsom 2; Blandford 4 Andover 1; Cheam 0 Purley 7; Old Walcountians 1 Barnes 1. Kent/Sussex: Ashford 2 Herne Bay 6; Bexleyheath 0 Old Bordenians 5; Bexley Invicta 2 Belvedere 2; Blackheath 4 Middleton 0; Bognor 1 Sevenoaks 5; Brighton 1 Marden Russets 2; Eastbourne 2 Mid Sussex 4; Lloyds Bank 1 Old Holcombeians 4; Tulse Hill 1 Old Williamsonians 2; Worthing 0 Horsham 6. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham 1 Richings Park 8; Bracknell 1 OMT 3; City of Oxford 3 PHC Chiswick 1; Eastcote 5 Lions 1; Gerrards Cross 4 Mill Hill 3; Harrow 1 Milton Keynes 5; Headington 0 Farnham Common 1; Newbury 1 Marlow 1; Staines 3 Sunbury 0; West Hampstead 1 Hayes 1.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford 2 Cambridge University 2; Colchester 1 Cambridge City 3; Ipswich 5 Dereham 0; Peterborough Town 4 Sudbury 1; Redbridge and Ilford 0 Chelmsford 4. Premier division B: Bury St Edmunds 1 Huntingdon 1; Clacton 3 Romford 3; Ipswich and East Suffolk 1 Luton Town 3; Old Southendian 4 Norwich City 1

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Chester 2 Swalwell 2; Formby 1 Ben Rhydding 1; Norton 4 Harrogate 0; Sheffield Bankers 3 Neston 1; Southport 7 Ramgarhia 1; Timperley 5 Springfields 3

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Harborne 5 Hampton-in-Arden 1; Loughborough Students 5 Khalsa 0; North Notts 2 Bloxwich 6; Nottingham 4 Coventry and North Warwicks 2; Olton and West Warwickshire 7 Blossomfield 1.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Buccaneers 7 Llan and Llan 0; Bristol University 5 Plymouth 1; Clevedon 3 Whitchurch 2; Robinsons 2 Taunton Vale 0; Weston-super-Mare 1 Swansea 1.

SCOTTISH INDOOR CUP: Semi-finals: Insights Menzieshill 6 Torbrex Wanderers 3; MIM 4 Gordonians 2. Final: Insights Menzieshill 5 MIM 3

WOMEN'S LEAGUES: West: Bournemouth 2 Colwall 1; Wimborne 1 Redland 4; St Austell 1 Leominster 2. East: Belvedere 1 Redbridge 1. North: Blackburn 2 Poynton 3; Sheffield 3 Walton 3. South: Hampstead 0 Winchester 1; Horsham 4 Worthing 2; Reading 5 Winchmore Hill 2; Southampton 2 Dulwich 0; Tulse Hill 0 Portsmouth 1

WOMEN'S TRIANGULAR TOURNAMENT: Loughborough Students 2 English Universities 1; Loughborough Students 1 Leicester 4; English Universities 1 Leicester 5 (at Loughborough)

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Aldridge 2 Exmouth 1; Bracknell 6 Berkhamsted 1; Capdock 0 Harleston 3; Havant 2 Aldershot and Fareham 1; Northampton 0 Pickwick 1; Sevenoaks 3 Letchworth 0; Woking 1 Olton 3; West Witney 4 Bedford 0

WOMEN'S SCOTTISH INDOOR CUP: Semi-finals: Edinburgh Ladies 4 Western Klick Photopoint 4 (Western won 3-2 on pens); Clydesdale 2 Bonagrass Grove 2 (Clydesdale won 3-2 on pens). Final: Western Klick Photopoint 4 Clydesdale 2

Daniele Pontoni, of Italy, raises his arms as he crosses the line to win the world cyclo-cross championships in Munich yesterday. Pontoni won in 1hr 00min 40sec, 23 seconds ahead of his nearest rival

RUGBY UNION

Edinburgh Acad 44 Morrison's Acad 5; Glenalmond 32 Glasgow Acad 7; Hampton 22 Emanuel 9; Harrogate 8 Woodhouse Grove 29; King's, Macclesfield 22 St Edward's, Liverpool 3; Lord Wandsworth 13 Wimbledon 32; Newcastle RGS 44 Yarm 19; Reigate GS 17 RGS, High Wycombe 7; St Benedict's 34 Gunnersbury 10; Silcoates 10 QEGS, Wakefield 64.

FOOTBALL

UNDER-15 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Ireland 1 Wales 0 (in Dublin). Representative match: England Under-18 1 Loughborough University 1. English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: North Warwickshire Coll 1 Hereford Sixth Form Coll 4; Springwood HS 2 Peterborough Coll 1; Easthampstead Park 1 Wootton Bassett 0 (aet); Colchester SFC 8 Springwood HS 0; Ardingly 8 Poole GS 0. English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Fifth round: Croydon 0 Plymouth 2; Coventry 2 South Notts 1 (aet); Liverpool 2 East Riding 0; Sefton 3 North Tyneside 0. FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Essex 8 Suffolk 0; Nottinghamshire 0 Humberside 2; North Yorkshire 0 Northumberland 1. FA Premier League Under 16 Trophy: North Yorkshire 0 Northumberland 4. English Girls Shield: Woking 1 Bexley 2. English Goodyear Under-16 Trophy: Ousdale 6 Henry Gotch 1; St Matthew's, Manchester 3 Bridgwater, Cheshire 1; Thomas Hepburn 3 City Sch, South Yorks 5. English Girls Under-16 Vimto Trophy: Kingsthorpe Upper 1 Uppingham 2. Southern Counties Cup: Reading 2 Bexley 1. Essex Clark Cup: Waltham Forest 1 Havering 3. Pickford Shield: Isle of Wight 2 Southampton 6. Star Shield: Brent 4 Hounslow 0. Hereward Trophy: South Notts 0 Leicester 1. Essex Welsh Shield: Waltham Forest 2 Havering 5. London Hawke Trophy: Croydon 0 Havering 2. Warwick Cup (Under-15): Mid-Oxon 1 Solihull 2. Middlesex Bower Cup: Brent 2 Hounslow 0. Mercury Trophy: South Notts 2 Leicester 0. London Pear Trophy: Islington 5 Hillingdon 1. Hughes Trophy: Southampton 4 Bournemouth 1. Meeson Trophy: Gosport 3 Portsmouth 6. Snowdon Cup: St Helens 0 Liverpool 0; Halton 0 Sefton 1. Essex Birmingham Trophy: Waltham Forest 2 Havering 0. Barnet Shieldhouse Cup: Liverpool 11 Chester 1; Crosby 2 Bootle 1; Skelmersdale 1 St Helens 3. Northern merit: Preston 2 Leeds 3. Webster Shield: Solihull 2 Gloucester 2. Middlesex Compton Cup: Brent 2 Hounslow 6. Inter-association: Hull 4 Spen Valley 5; Newham 5 Hackney 0; Lewisham 4 Croydon 0; Kettering 1 Nottingham 2; Solihull 2 Gloucester 1. Under-14: Kettering 2 Nottingham 8; Hull 1 Spen Valley 2. West Yorkshire League: Hull 1 Spen Valley 3. Sherwood Forest League: Rushcliffe 1 Kirkby 2; Eastwood 6 Newark 1. Other match: King's, Canterbury 1 KCS Wimbledon 0.

ATHLETICS

KELVIN HALL, Glasgow: TSB Scottish schools indoor championships: Boys: 60m: D Turnbull (Prestwick Academy) 7.13sec. 200m: C Carson (St Columba's, Dunfermline) 22.27. 400m: K Stewart (Berwickshire High) 48.36. 800m: A Erikson (Perth Grammar) 2min 00.41sec. 1,500m: J Hendry (Glasgow Academy) 4:01.29. 60m hurdles: C Beliffe (Clydebank High) 8.27sec. High jump: C McMaster (Carluke High) 2.05m. Long jump: C Low (Carnoustie High) 6.45. Shot: G Allan (Milne's High) 14.61. Girls: 60m: S Christie (Uddingston Grammar) 7.86sec. 200m: S Burnside (George Watson's) 26.35. 300m: C Easton (Hamilton Grammar) 41.66. 800m: J Ross (Boclair Academy) 2min 13.75sec. 1,500m: S Beattie (Morrison's Academy) 4:44.92. 60m hurdles: J Farrow (Madras College) 9.10sec. High jump: G Black (Castlehead High) 1.70. Long jump: L Church (John Paul Academy) 5.35. Shot: S Hamilton (St George's) 9.75.

HOCKEY

CRYSTAL PALACE: English women's indoor championships: Under-18: Group A: Painsley RC 0 Gordano 4; Sir William Perkins 0 Coopers Coburn 2; Wakefield 2 Painsley 2; Gordano 3 Sir William Perkins 0; Coopers Coburn 0 Wakefield 0; Painsley 5 Sir William Perkins 0; Gordano 3 Coopers Coburn 0; Sir William Perkins 0 Wakefield 1; Coopers Coburn 2 Painsley 3; Wakefield 0 Gordano 2. Group B: Brighouse HS 2 The Chase High 3; Cheltenham 0 Henry Cort 2; Tonbridge GS 4 Brighouse HS 3; The Chase High 5 Cheltenham 1; Henry Cort 4 Tonbridge GS 0; Brighouse HS 0 Cheltenham 4; The Chase High 1 Henry Cort 2; Cheltenham 1 Tonbridge GS 4; Henry Cort 5 Brighouse HS 0; Tonbridge GS 0 The Chase High 2. Semi-finals: Gordano 3 The Chase High 1; Henry Cort 2 Painsley 1. Final: Gordano 2 Henry Cort 0.

OTHER MATCHES: Cranbrook 5 Sutton Valence 0; Epsom 2 St George's, Weybridge 2; Hurstpierpoint 3 Brighton 0; Perse 8 Forest 0; Uppingham 1 Felsted 2.

ROWING

HAMPTON SCHOOLS HEAD OF THE RIVER: Eights: 1, Hampton 8min 58sec (junior winners); 2, St Paul's 8:59; 3, Kingston GS 9:05. Other division winners: Second eights: Hampton 9:21. Junior: Under-16: Emmanuel 9:44. Under-15: Latymer 10:03. Under-14: Westminster 12:01. Women's junior: Lady Eleanor Holles 10:09. Fours: Junior: St Edward's 9:59. Under-16: Bedford 10:27. Under-15: Westminster 11:04. Women's junior: Headington 11:37. Quads: Junior: St George's 9:34. Under-16: Tiffin 9:52. Under-15: KCS, Wimbledon 10:06. Under-14: King's, Rochester 11:51. Women's junior: King's, Canterbury 10:34. Under-16: Lady Eleanor Holles 11:32. Under-14: Henley 11:39.

CRICKET

Fifth Test match

Australia v West Indies

PERTH (second day of five; Australia won toss): West Indies, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 110 runs ahead of Australia

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M L Hayden c Lara b Ambrose	0
*M A Taylor run out	2
G S Blewett c Browne b Simmons	17
M E Waugh c Campbell b Ambrose	79
S R Waugh c Browne b Ambrose	1
M G Bevan not out	87
†I A Healy b Ambrose	7
P R Reiffel c Simmons b Ambrose	0
S K Warne c Browne b Bishop	9
A J Bichel c Browne b Bishop	15
G D McGrath c Ambrose b Bishop	0
Extras (lb 10, w 2, nb 14)	26
Total	243

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-7, 3-45, 4-49, 5-169, 6-186, 7-188, 8-216, 9-243

BOWLING: Ambrose 18-5-43-5; Walsh 9-0-29-0; Bishop 18-5-54-3; Simmons 20-5-59-1; Hooper 15-1-49-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c Healy b Reiffel	21
R G Samuels c M E Waugh b Warne	76
S Chanderpaul c Reiffel b McGrath	3
B C Lara c Healy b Warne	132
C L Hooper not out	57
J C Adams c Healy b McGrath	18
P V Simmons c M E Waugh b Reiffel	0
†C O Browne c Warne b Reiffel	0
I R Bishop not out	5
Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 1, nb 26)	41
Total (7 wkts)	353

C E L Ambrose and *C A Walsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-30, 2-43, 3-251, 4-275, 5-331, 6-332, 7-332.

BOWLING: McGrath 24-5-64-2; Bichel 18-1-79-0; Reiffel 20-5-65-3; Warne 18-7-55-2; Blewett 6-2-19-0; S R Waugh 7-1-26-0; Bevan 5-0-31-0

Umpires: D G Harr (Australia) and P Willey (England)

One-day international

South Africa v India

PORT ELIZABETH (India won toss): South Africa beat India by six wickets

INDIA

S C Ganguly run out	0
R S Dravid c Cronje b Donald	50
J Srinath c Richardson b Kallis	3
*S R Tendulkar b Donald	1
M Azharuddin c Rhodes b Donald	57
A D Jadeja lbw b Kallis	15
S S Karim c Bacher b Adams	8
R Singh c Donald b Pollock	18
A Kumble not out	11
S A Ankola run out	8
Extras (lb 3, w 4, nb 1)	8
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	179

B K V Prasad did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-7, 3-11, 4-116, 5-118, 6-130, 7-147, 8-168, 9-177

BOWLING: Pollock 10-1-37-1, Kallis 8-2-23-2; Donald 10-2-40-3, Klusener 8-0-28-0, Adams 10-1-31-1; Cronje 4-0-17-0

SOUTH AFRICA

A M Bacher b Kumble	13
G Kirsten c Azharuddin b Prasad	6
J H Kallis c Ankola b Singh	79
D J Cullinan c Jadeja b Singh	21
J N Rhodes not out	29
*W J Cronje not out	20
Extras (lb 9, w 1, nb 2)	12
Total (4 wkts, 45.1 overs)	180

L Klusener, S M Pollock, †D J Richardson, A A Donald and P R Adams did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-8, 2-47, 3-89, 4-154

BOWLING: Srinath 7.1-2-24-0; Prasad 9-0-41-1; Kumble 9-0-30-1; Ankola 10-0-42-0; Singh 10-0-34-2.

Man of the match: J H Kallis.

Umpires: R E Koertzen and D L Orchard.

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL MATCH (50 overs): Friday: Zimbabwe 256 for 8 (G W Flower 62, D L Houghton 57; A A Donald 4 for 46); South Africa 259 for 6 (S M Pollock 75, W J Cronje 70 not out). South Africa win by five wickets

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Brisbane (final day of four): Queensland 179 and 412 (T J Barsby 107); Western Australia 183 (A Dale 5-43) and 273-5 (T M Moody 136). Match drawn. Melbourne (third day of four): New South Wales 290 and 264-8 dec. Victoria 164 (B E McNamara 5-30) and 391-8 (G R Vimpani 162, I J Harvey 88, M T G Elliott 65). Victoria win by two wickets. Adelaide (second day of four): South Australia 293 (D S Lehmann 76), Tasmania 304-6 (J Cox 94, D F Hills 59).

SUPERSPORT SERIES: Durban (second day of four): Griqualand West 91 (T Bosch 5-15) and 18-1; Natal 413-3 dec (D N Crookes 128 not out, D M Benkenstein 101 not out, E L R Stewart 82, D J Watson 52). Bloemfontein (second day of four): Free State 401 (J F Venter 101, D Jordaan 68), Border 321-5 (P J Botha 136, P N Kirsten 58, M Boucher 53 not out). Paarl (first day of four): Boland 304 (K C Jackson 120), Eastern Province 30-4.

RED STRIPE CUP (second day of four): Bridgetown: Trinidad and Tobago 165 (I Roberts 52; T Rollock 6-15) and 81-2; Barbados 238 (F L Reifer 50). Castries, St Lucia: Jamaica 77 and 12-0; Windward Islands 104. Georgetown: Guyana v Leeward Islands — no play due to rain.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	90	250	good	varied	fair	sun	0	20/1
(Great piste skiing high up, mixed lower down)								
La Clusaz	40	230	good	hard	icy	sun	0	20/1
(Upper pistes enjoyable, icy patches low down)								
Méribel	45	130	fair	moguls	icy	sun	3	20/1
(Cover good though most runs becoming icy)								
La Tania	95	125	good	varied	icy	sun	-3	20/1
(Pistes mostly good though icy/hard areas)								
Val d Isère	80	215	good	varied	icy	sun	0	21/1
(All but lowest runs remain enjoyable)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	40	300	good	varied	worn	sun	2	22/1
(Excellent skiing above mid-station)								
Saas Fee	60	295	good	varied	fair	fair	-3	27/1
(Enjoyable skiing on well-groomed pistes)								
Zermatt	45	280	fair	varied	worn	sun	-1	20/1
(Upper levels good though wearing lower down)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

RUGBY UNION

Five nations' championship

England	41	Scotland	13

England: Tries: Carling, Gomarsall, De Glanville, penalty try. Cons: Grayson 3. Pens: Grayson 5. Scotland: Try: Eriksson. Con: Shepherd. Pens: Shepherd 2.

(at Twickenham)

Wales	25	Ireland	26

Wales: Tries: Evans 2, S Quinnell. Cons: Jenkins 2. Pens: Jenkins 2. Ireland: Tries: Bell, Hickie, Miller. Con: Elwood. Pens: Elwood 3.

(at Cardiff Arms Park)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	41	13	2
France	1	1	0	0	32	15	2
Wales	2	1	0	1	59	45	2
Ireland	2	1	0	1	41	57	2
Scotland	2	0	0	2	32	75	0

Courage Clubs Championship

Second division

Nottingham	11	Moseley	22

Nottingham: Try: Bygrave. Pens: Evans 2. Moseley: Tries: O'Mahony 3. Cons: Le Bas 2. Pen: Le Bas.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	13	11	2	0	619	216	24
Bedford	14	10	0	4	457	304	20
Coventry	13	9	1	3	478	232	19
Newcastle	10	8	1	1	558	136	17
Wakefield	12	7	0	5	293	267	14
Rotherham	12	7	0	5	341	338	14
L Scottish	12	6	0	6	314	330	12
Blackheath	13	5	0	8	243	289	10
Waterloo	12	3	0	9	245	375	6
Moseley	13	3	0	10	208	479	6
Rugby	12	3	0	9	167	600	6
Nottingham	14	1	0	13	230	563	2

Third division

Exeter	24	Walsall	22

Exeter: Tries: Baxter, Southern. Con: Green. Pens: Green 4. Walsall: Try: Lea. Con: Mills. Pens: Mills 5.

Fylde	29	Clifton	20

Fylde: Tries: Anderton, Gough, Macfarlane, O'Toole. Cons: Gough 3. Pen: Gough. Clifton: Tries: Buckingham, Hayward. Cons: Hogg 2. Pen: Hogg. Dropped goal: Hogg.

Havant	15	Morley	51

Havant: Tries: Pearce, Morisley. Con: Russell. Pen: Russell. Morley: Tries: Graham 2, Smith 2, Peacock, Sales, Shepherd. Cons: Grayshon 5. Pen: Grayshon. Dropped goal: Grayshon.

Liverpool St H	72	Redruth	17

Liverpool St Helens: Tries: Brett 3, Gaskell 2, Handy 2, Boyd, Eddy, Graham, Sephton. Cons: Brett 6, Wellens. Pen: Brett. Redruth: Tries: Morgan, O'Sullivan, Osborne. Con: Morgan.

Otley	27	Lydney	17

Otley: Tries: Kelt 2, Darby, Kirkby. Cons: Rutledge 2. Pen: Rutledge. Lydney: Try: Kilby. Pens: Morris 4.

Reading	32	London Welsh	17

Reading: Tries: Barrett 2, Spencer 2, Guttridge. Cons: Dance 2. Pen: Dance. London Welsh: Tries: Giraud, Lewsey, Morris. Con: Raymond.

Rosslyn Park	20	Leeds	14

Rosslyn Park: Tries: Currie, Dalwood, Holder. Con: Holder. Pen: Holder. Leeds: Try: Mathias. Pens: Ainscough 3.

Wharfedale	10	Harrogate	21

Wharfedale: Try: Hodgson. Con: Mounsey. Pen: Mounsey. Harrogate: Tries: Farrar, Wheat. Con: Zoing. Pens: Zoing 2. Dropped goal: Zoing.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fylde	17	15	1	1	506	241	31
Leeds	17	12	0	5	578	316	24
Morley	15	11	0	4	472	270	22
Exeter	15	11	0	4	428	229	22
Lydney	16	9	0	7	386	357	18
Harrogate	16	8	0	8	378	348	16
Wharfedale	16	8	0	8	351	326	16
Otley	16	8	0	8	380	393	16
L Welsh	17	8	0	9	342	357	16
Rosslyn Park	14	7	0	7	270	335	14
Reading	14	6	1	7	371	342	13
Walsall	15	6	0	9	338	407	12
Redruth	17	6	0	11	329	588	12
Liverpool St H	15	4	0	11	310	370	8
Havant	17	4	0	13	330	508	8
Clifton	17	3	0	14	308	674	6

LEADING SCORERS: 247: S Gough (Fylde; 4 tries, 37 conversions, 48 penalty goals, 2 dropped goal). 194: P Rutledge (Otley; 6t, 28c, 36pg). 191: C Raymond (London Welsh; 4t, 18c, 41pg, 4dg). 188: P Morris (Lydney; 2t, 20c, 46pg). 187: G Ainscough (Leeds; 6t, 23c, 37pg). 171: R Mills (Walsall; 1t, 23c, 39pg, 1dg). 138: R Zoing (Harrogate; 24c, 28pg, 2dg). 123: A Peacock (Morley; 2t, 22c, 23pg). 121: A Green (Exeter; 2t, 21c, 21pg, 2dg). 104: I Morgan (Redruth; 3t, 13c, 21pg). Tries: 15: M Preston (Fylde). 11: R Bell (Harrogate), R Mathias (Leeds). 10: S Dovell (Exeter), B Wade (Morley), A Hodgson (Wharfedale). 9: M Appleson (Leeds), M Buckingham (Clifton). 8: G Anderton (Fylde), P Congo (Redruth), M Kirkby (Otley), M Stubbs (Lydney), C Walker (Wharfedale).

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham 6 Launceston 37; Gloucester Old Boys 39 Camborne 9; Maidenhead 41 Bridgwater 18; Salisbury 17 Barnstaple 44; St Ives 28 Stroud 19; Torquay wo Matson

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Ruislip 29 Thurrock 25

Fourth division north

Birmingham/S	43	Nuneaton	11
Kendal	40	Stoke-on-Trent	3
Lichfield	12	Sheffield	11
Preston Grass	23	Aspatria	11
Sandal	55	Hereford	10
Stourbridge	11	Winnington Park	20
Worcester	17	Manchester	10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	14	12	2	0	451	200	26
Birmingham	14	11	0	3	372	186	22
Preston G	13	10	0	3	311	161	20
Manchester	14	7	1	6	342	259	15
Sheffield	14	7	1	6	301	253	15
Sandal	12	7	0	5	272	254	14
Kendal	12	6	1	5	258	226	13
Stourbridge	13	6	1	6	347	330	13
Winnington P	14	6	1	7	282	279	13
Aspatria	13	5	0	8	339	380	10
Lichfield	12	5	0	7	230	325	10
Hereford	13	3	0	10	185	390	6
Nuneaton	14	2	1	11	212	422	5
Stoke-on-T	14	2	0	12	205	462	4

MIDLANDS: First division: Stafford 9 Wolverhampton 11.

NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians 23 Widnes 21; Sedgley Park 64 Bradford and Bingley 9; Stockton 14 New Brighton 29; Tynedale 34 Bridlington 11; Wigton 26 Macclesfield 13; West Park Bramhope 24 Broughton Park 3.

Fourth division south

Barking	50	Askeans	7
Berry Hill	33	Plymouth	24
Charlton Park	9	Cheltenham	34
Met Police	51	Camberley	13
Weston-s-Mare	16	North Walsham	3

Yesterday

Henley	31	Tabard	25
Newbury	49	High Wycombe	10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	13	13	0	0	529	175	26
Henley	13	12	0	1	409	243	24
Cheltenham	12	9	1	2	289	177	19
Met Police	13	9	0	4	388	209	18
Camberley	13	8	1	4	349	280	17
Plymouth	14	6	2	6	322	313	14
Barking	13	6	1	6	347	263	13
H Wycombe	13	5	1	7	300	351	11
Tabard	12	3	3	6	208	238	9
Weston-s-M	13	4	0	9	226	264	8
Berry Hill	12	4	0	8	239	320	8
Nth Walsham	13	3	1	9	201	337	7
Askeans	13	1	1	11	186	436	3
Charlton Park	13	1	1	11	158	543	3

CLUB MATCHES: Blackheath 8 Cambridge University 31; London Scottish 46 Watsonians 10; Waterloo 6 Sale 40; Wakefield 29 Orrell 19; West Hartlepool 45 Rotherham 17.

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Agen 31 Nimes 16; Grenoble 23 Bourgoin 16; Béziers 27 Perigueux 5; Castres 21 Toulouse 12; Dax 25 Biarritz 20. Pool two: Pau 73 Dijon 17; Brive 12 Montferrand 12; Toulon 20 Bègles-Bordeaux 28; Paris University Club 20 Narbonne 28; Colomiers 29 Perpignan 25.

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: L'Aquila 21 Milan 50; Treviso 77 Rome 8; Colleferro 12 Padova 22; Rovigo 84 San Dona 7; Calvisano 69 Catania 3; Bologna 35 Livorno 10.

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULTS: A international match: Emerging Wales 34 Ireland A 14 (at Pontypridd). Tour match: England A 15 Otago 42 (at Bristol). Anglo-Welsh Cup: Pool 2A: Ebbw Vale 44 London Irish 24. Student international match: Welsh Universities 11 Irish Universities 19. Club matches: Bedford 74 Kelso 8; Bonymaen 41 Carmarthen Quins 31; Coventry 8 Leicester 33; Cardiff 48 Cross Keys 44; Kenfig Hill 34 South Wales Police 14; Llanelli 60 St Mary's College 20; London Scottish 51 Watsonians 10; Newcastle 56 Boroughmuir 3; Newport 32 Pontypool 14; Northampton 70 Gala 3; Oxford University 17 Penguins 9; Rugby 21 Jed-Forest 6; Blackwood 16 Newbridge 17.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: New Jersey 113 Phoenix 101; Minnesota 82 Dallas 82; Denver 113 Houston 109; Utah 102 Atlanta 96. LA Clippers 100 Vancouver 94: Chicago 111 Sacramento 93. Saturday: Boston 111 Portland 105; Orlando 109 Philadelphia 99; Charlotte 102 Milwaukee 95; Indiana 100 Houston 74; Minnesota 97 San Antonio 85; Seattle 97 Washington 95; Atlanta 87 Vancouver 78; Chicago 115 Golden State 92.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	33	12	.733	—
New York	32	13	.711	1
Orlando	21	20	.512	10
Washington	22	22	.500	10½
New Jersey	12	31	.279	20
Philadelphia	11	34	.244	22
Boston	10	32	.238	21½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	40	5	.889	—
Detroit	33	11	.750	6½
Atlanta	30	13	.698	9
Charlotte	26	19	.578	14
Cleveland	24	20	.545	15½
Indiana	21	22	.488	18
Milwaukee	21	24	.467	19
Toronto	16	28	.364	23½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	32	13	.711	—
Utah	31	14	.689	1
Minnesota	21	24	.467	11
Dallas	15	28	.349	16
Denver	14	32	.304	18½
San Antonio	11	31	.262	19½
Vancouver	8	40	.167	25½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
LA Lakers	33	12	.733	—
Seattle	32	13	.711	1
Portland	25	21	.543	8½
Sacramento	20	26	.435	13½
LA Clippers	18	25	.419	14
Golden State	17	28	.378	16
Phoenix	15	31	.326	18½

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury and Bolton 80 Solent 67; Nottingham 92 Liverpool 78; Plymouth 94 Brixton 55; Stockton 105 Mid Sussex 88; Ware 93 Coventry 91; Westminster 92 Oxford 96. Second division: Slough 76 Northampton 49; Solihull 111 Flintshire 74; South Wales 73 London 92; Swindon 70 Sheffield 73; Thames Valley 91 Bournemouth 52. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham 56 Nottingham 50; Crystal Palace 69 Harlesden 65; Ipswich 48 Spelthorne 76; London 57 Northampton 78; Rhondda 65 Sheffield 72. Second division: Chelmsford 49 Plymouth 53; Leicester 65 Manchester 56; Solent 66 Liverpool 67.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Friday: Worthing 105 Thames Valley 104 (OT). Saturday: Derby 84 Birmingham 94; Manchester 72 Leicester 93; Newcastle 91 Leopards 89; Thames Valley 118 Hemel and Watford 85. Yesterday: London Towers 112 Worthing 88.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
* Chester	21	16	5	1827	1681	32
* Sheffield	20	15	5	1741	1492	30
London T	19	15	4	1606	1498	30
* Leopards	19	13	6	1770	1686	26
* Birmingham	19	12	7	1622	1594	24
Manchester	22	12	10	1706	1653	24
* Newcastle	20	12	8	1764	1736	24
Derby	23	11	12	2003	2013	22
Leicester	20	11	9	1695	1643	22
Worthing	23	7	16	1858	2059	14
Thames Valley	20	6	14	1650	1883	12
* C Palace	20	3	17	1490	1697	6
Hemel and W	22	1	21	1864	2351	2

* not including last night's matches

If you think netball is for schoolgirls and sissies, think again, says **Sally Jones** after a gruelling refresher course

Running in circles on the night of the shooting stars

SPORT FOR ALL

"Go for it!" yelled Sally Walden, the Leamington Netball Club fitness trainer, as a dozen players hurtled down the court (with me bringing up the rear, alas) and began bounding explosively in a highly energetic sequence of squat thrusts, press-ups and star jumps before sprinting to the far end.

The exercise, part of a gruelling one-hour session of stretching and circuit training, was repeated half-a-dozen times. While I tried to get my breath back, thigh muscles screaming for mercy after the unaccustomed leaps, we paired up for a series of handling drills; one player throwing the ball over the head of her partner, who then had to execute an acrobatic, arching leap backwards, controlling the ball one-handed, first with the left hand and then the right.

Finally we were divided into teams and began a series of cruel but fair "friendly" matches which, despite the speed and much bumping around more appropriate to a football game, seemed like a rest cure compared to the ferocious training that had gone before.

Admittedly, it was at least 15 years since I had last played netball regularly, and a far cry from the days when I had enjoyed a Vinnie Jones-style reputation as a vicious goal attack (help shooter) at school and county level. Yet, although I still run and work out regularly, the intensity of Leamington's Tuesday night practice session was a shock.

Netball's old St Trinian's image of shrieking, gym-slipped schoolgirls looping a ball around dingy playgrounds has changed dramatically over the past decade. This is mainly because of greater media coverage and recognition that netball can be a thrilling spectator sport rather than a dull chuckaround organised for those too feeble or rebellious to play hockey.

Proof of the sport's higher profile came during the recent international series between England and Jamaica, when BBC Sport screened the match in Birmingham live on *Grandstand* along with generous highlights of the other tour games. Patricia "Cricket" MacDonald, the Jamaica shooter, a 6ft 4in professional basketball player, emerged as the star, dwarfing the rest of the lanky ectomorphs who dominate the shooting circles at international level.

As a result of such recognition, increasing numbers of players are making the transition from school netball — played to at least basic level by virtually every teenage girl in the state and independent sectors — to the club game, from which the county and international players are drawn. The Leamington club, where I had my refresher course, is among the most successful in the Midlands and reflects the present boom in the sport, fielding five senior and three junior teams whittled down from the scores of hopefuls who attend the trials each summer. These teams, which compete each weekend in highly competitive county league matches, boast several Warwickshire senior and junior players, including three of the club's top shooters — Victoria Smith, my 17-year-old cousin, plus the first-team partnership of Kelly New, a statuesque six-footer, and Julie Scanlon (5ft 5in), who makes up for her lack of inches with gazelle-like leaps and an almost telepathic rapport with New in the circle.

Once I joined in the first-team practice match against the seconds, as goal defence, the gulf in pace between schoolgirl and club netball hit me nearly as hard as my first collision with my opponent — Kate Stenger, the goal attack, a trim, humorous woman who looks like an athletic Audrey Hepburn. As I tried to shut her out of the game by close marking, I rediscovered the old frustration of needing eyes in the back of my head. The moment I turned to face her, I could no longer tell where the next pass was coming from, and, as soon as I turned to watch the progress of the game, she dodged, feinted and sprinted into a space to receive the ball and pop in the seemingly inevitable goal.

Even when I stayed in front, the opposing wing attack detailed to feed the ball into the shooters simply rolled it rapidly along the ground just wide of my clutching fingers, a useful ploy against someone like me, a whisker under 6ft.

Realising how vital it was to win possession, I started marking Stenger less closely to encourage her team-mates to pass to her so that I could sprint into position and intercept. After three vain attempts, I struck lucky, just managing to control a loose pass with my fingertips to the unflattering amazement of my team-mates. Pumped up with adrenalin, I immediately gave away the advantage with an over-ambitious high pass that cleared our leaping wing by inches.

After a string of lightning passes, opening up the court, Stenger once more stood poised to shoot. Desperate to make amends, I stood fractionally closer than the prescribed three feet as I tried to block her shot and was duly penalised, forced to stand beside her as she flicked in yet another goal with blasé ease.

Luckily, our shooters were also on form, launching the ball so immaculately from the edge of the circle that it often dropped through the ring without touching the sides. As we changed ends, Julie Scanlon, the Warwickshire goal attack, a civil servant who processes claims for income support, joked about her dedication to the sport.

"In my work, I deal with all sorts — glue sniffers, drug addicts, alcoholics, you name it, so coming down here is like a holiday," she said. "It is a great release because you cannot think of anything else during a match and we all have a good laugh, too, because it is such a friendly club. I train several nights a week and also work out in the gym to make sure that I am as fit as I can be. The husbands and boyfriends? They soon realise that this takes priority and a lot now come and support because, once they see some good netball, they realise it's a real scrap and not a game for sissies at all. What are you doing on Saturday?"

High energy: the action on court is fast and furious

PAUL ROGERS

On the ball: Victoria Smith, shooter, and Julie Scanlon, goal attack, the Warwickshire players, during a practice session

THE RULES

TWO teams of seven players with set positions and different areas of operation battle it out on a rectangular court divided into thirds and with a semi-circular shooting circle at each end. Most senior games are played over four quarters of 15 minutes each.

The game starts with a pass from the centre circle by the centre of the team that has won the toss. From then on the centre passes (after each goal scored) are taken alternately. The ball is passed up the court into the attacking team's circle where the shooter or goal attack, the only players allowed to score, try to shoot into the 10ft-high ring. The opposing team's players try to intercept the ball or force an error from their opponents that will give them possession.

Players are permitted only one step after catching the ball. Unlike basketball, they cannot "dribble" it down the court with a series of bounces, but must pass within three seconds, a rule that tends to create a fast and open game. Players must stand at least three feet away from an opponent passing the ball; anyone standing too close or indulging in rough play is forced to stand beside her opponent who then takes a penalty pass.

NETBALL TODAY

NETBALL is now a leading international sport — a record 27 countries took part when England hosted the ninth world championship in Birmingham last year. England finished fourth as Australia, the favourites, took the title ahead of South Africa and New Zealand.

The vast majority of British schools play netball where appropriate, while in England alone, there are 4,000 clubs and 57,000 women playing regularly.

Two mini-versions of the game, First Step netball, for seven to nine-year-olds, and High Five netball, for children up to 11, have been introduced to attract youngsters, while lottery funding should make more money available to support the elite players and ensure that netball is one of the games featured at the planned British Sports Academy.

Netball was invented in the United States as basketball by a YMCA secretary in 1891, using two wastepaper baskets hung on the wall as goals. By 1897 students at Madam Osterberg's PT College at Dartford had introduced rings instead of baskets, a larger ball and the division of the court into thirds. The All England Netball Association was founded in 1926.

WHAT IT COSTS

IF, like me, you have not played netball for a while but are considering taking it up again, joining a club with several teams of varying standards and a wide age range is the best way to restart. Subscriptions vary depending on the club's size and professionalism and can range from £30 to £75 a year. The typical club skirt, shirt and tracksuit could cost up to £90, while robust, well-padded trainers will add £40 to £50. Most clubs train one night a week with matches and social events at weekends, often involving some travelling. Many allow prospective members to attend a couple of sessions to see whether they enjoy the training and the atmosphere before they decide whether to join. For more information, contact the All England Netball Association, 9 Paynes Park, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1EH (tel: 01462 442344).

Good shot: Victoria Smith shows the form that keeps her noticed

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Christian Mari, a member of the France team that won the 1996 Olympiad, was one of the most impressive players at the 1997 Macallan pairs. He and Omar Sharif finished fifth. Study Mari's defence on the hand below.

Dealer East **East-West game** **IMPs**

♠Q7
♥KQJ654
♦103
♣Q103

♠105
♥A10973
♦KJ86
♣J5

♠J962
♥82
♦Q954
♣A87

♠AK843
♥—
♦A72
♣K8642

W	N	E	S
—	—	Pass	1 S
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 C
Pass	2 H	Pass	3 C
Pass	4 S	All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South   Lead: Six of diamonds

This was the auction with Meckstroth South and Rodwell North. The 1NT response on the Meckwell system can be quite strong. South's bidding demonstrated a reasonable hand with five-five in the black suits. Omar Sharif (West) led the six of diamonds, and Mari's queen was allowed to hold the trick. How should East defend?

This was Mari's reasoning: as declarer has ducked the first diamond, he presumably has Axx in diamonds. The danger if East defends passively is that declarer can take a diamond ruff, draw trumps and establish clubs. As the cards lie, that would have involved a good guess in clubs, but, if South had had clubs headed by KJ, it would have been routine.

Mari saw that the only way to prevent this was to attack declarer's trump length, so he returned a heart. What was South to do? If he ruffed, he would be out of control, so he discarded. Now, when the spades did not break, he had to go down.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Chess and art

Nine member countries of the EU officially consider chess a sport. The Germans even have a formal technical term for it, *Denksport*, which translates as "mind sport". However, others have regarded chess as an art. Indeed, Daumier, Bill Jacklin, Paul Klee, Kandinsky, Juan Gris, Max Ernst and Escher have all used chess motifs in their artworks. Among contemporary artists, Barry Martin, a former vice-president of the Chelsea Arts Club, and Lorraine Gill have experimented with chess ideas.

Without a doubt, though, the greatest chess player among artists was Marcel Duchamp, who not only painted pictures of chessplayers but also achieved master strength in the game and represented France on board two (behind Alekhine) in the chess Olympiads. The following game gives an idea of his playing strength.

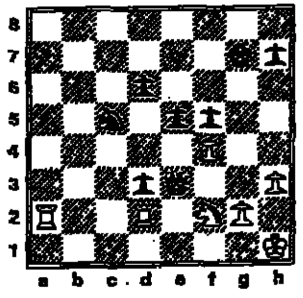
White: Michel
Black: Duchamp
Strasbourg, 1924

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Nc3	d6
4	d4	cxd4
5	Nxd4	g6
6	Bb5	Bd7
7	0-0	Bg7
8	Be3	Nf6
9	f3	0-0
10	Qd2	Qa5
11	Nb3	Qc7
12	Bxc6	bxc6
13	Bh6	c5
14	Bxg7	Kxg7
15	Rab1	a5
16	Nc1	a4
17	b3	Rfb8
18	N1e2	axb3
19	cxb3	Ra3
20	Rfd1	Qe5
21	Qb2	Bc8
22	Nf4	Be6
23	Rd2	Rb4
24	Nd3	Rbxb3
25	axb3	Rxb3
26	Qxb3	Bxb3
27	Rxb3	c4
28	Ra2	Qc7
29	Rbb2	cxd3
30	Nd1	Nd7
31	Rd2	Qc5+
32	Nf2	Qe3
33	h3	Nc5
34	Kh1	f5
35	exf5	gxf5
36	f4 e5	

White resigns

Diagram of final position



New exhibition

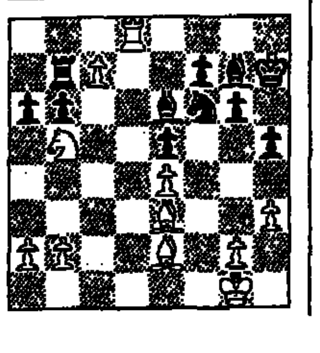
Lorraine Gill's new exhibition, featuring chess and mind sports motifs, will be held on February 15 from 2pm to 5pm at Court Gardens Leisure Complex, Pound Lane, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Visitors are welcome.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Pribyl — Babula, Lazne Bohd, 1994. White has placed all his hopes on his passed pawn on c7. However, if he now has to retreat his attacked knight from b5, he may just lose this pawn for nothing. How can he do better?



Solution on page 43

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SPEKBOOM
a. A sonic boom
b. A shrub
c. A square sail

SUG
a. A police informer
b. To hint
c. A trout louse

SONSE
a. Cheeky, saucy
b. Abundance
c. A Viking skull-cup

SWIMMERET
a. A swimming appendage
b. An Esther Williams nymphet
c. A monokini

Answers on page 43

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

RACING: CHELTENHAM BETTING SHAKEN UP BY SIGNIFICANT PERFORMANCES AT LEOPARDSTOWN

Gallant Danoli leads Irish gold rush

FROM RICHARD EVANS
AT LEOPARDSTOWN

Danoli holds off Jodami in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

DANOLI is vying for Cheltenham Gold Cup favouritism after winning the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup here amid tumultuous scenes yesterday.

Ireland's most popular horse was accorded a hero's reception after making most of the running to defeat Jodami by 1½ lengths, with Imperial Call, last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, 20 lengths away in third.

While hats were thrown high into the sky and Tom Foley, Danoli's trainer, was mobbed by well-wishers, a sorry sight greeted Jodami's supporters. The 12-year-old, winner of this race three times and ante-post favourite for this year's Martell Grand National, needed a horse ambulance after breaking down badly inside the final 50 yards. He ruptured his off-fore tendon and will not run again this season.

Danoli's victory, which came less than two hours after his great rival, Dorans Pride, maintained his unbeaten record over fences, served to strengthen Ireland's grip on the ante-post betting for next month's Cheltenham Gold Cup. The bookmakers are divided over who should be favourite. Ladbrokes and William Hill make Dorans Pride their 4-1 market leader, while Coral and the Tote prefer Danoli as favourite.

After falling twice over fences this season, Danoli's connections decided on an attacking policy yesterday. On the first circuit he vied for the lead with The Grey Monk and Merry Gale, and relished the opportunity to be at the head of affairs.

His only mistake came eight fences from home, but he recovered quickly, and with The Grey Monk falling two fences later, it was Imperial Call who moved up to challenge four fences from home.

The Cheltenham Gold Cup winner appeared to be travelling best of all, but lack of a recent run took its toll turning for home and it was left to Jodami to chase Danoli to the final obstacle.

"I thought Jodami might have the determination and experience to battle it out, but nobody should ever underestimate Danoli," Foley said. "There's a 99 per cent chance we will go for the Gold Cup — and if he wins we might stay on for another week. I am thrilled for Tommy Treacy and the horse. There were so many people knocking us."

Fergie Sutherland, trainer of Imperial Call said: "He just got tired. He has got a tiny cut on his hind leg, but I will patch that up and he will run at Gowran Park in two weeks' time. I am delighted with the horse."

Imperial Call is likely to meet Dorans Pride, who gave a polished display of jumping to beat See More Business in the Scalp Novices' Chase. The former winner of the Stayers' Hurdle has enjoyed an uninterrupted campaign, unlike many of his rivals, and looks over-priced at 7-1 with Coral.

Tom Doran, who bought Dorans Pride as a four-year-old, said: "From the first day when I saw him win a point-to-point at Cashel I knew fences were his game and anything over hurdles was a bonus. The main thing is to keep him sound.

"A year ago we nearly lost him when he had colic and needed two operations inside 24 hours. Maybe he was allowed to live for better things."

Although Doran holds a 33-1 ante-post voucher and admits the Cheltenham Gold Cup is everybody's dream, he insists the horse will not run if the dry weather continues and the ground is fast for the Festival. "Missing out on a few hundred pounds in prize-money doesn't matter," he said. "I was offered £250,000 to sell him earlier in the season, but I said if it was a million pounds he was not for sale."

BIG-RACE RESULT

3.40 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP (£59,000: 3m)

1, DANOLI (T Treacy, 6-1); 2, Jodami (N Williamson, 5-1); 3, Imperial Call (C O'Dwyer, evens fav). 8 ran. ALSO RAN: 7 Merry Gale (4th), The Grey Monk (f), 20 Belmont King (pu), 50 Idiots Venture (pu), King Of The Gales (5th). 1½l, 20l, 25l, dist. Tote: £5.40; £1.80, £1.70, £1.30. DF: £17.40. CSF: £32.14.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: WHIP HAND
(4.20 Newcastle)
Next best: Rose King
(4.10 Fontwell Park)

Istabraq makes hard work of landing odds

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

ISTABRAQ, the top Irish novice hurdler, was made to fight hard for a head victory over Finnegan's Hollow, his stable companion, in the Deloitte and Touche Novices' Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday. The runner-up had been comprehensively beaten by I'm Supposin, the Champion Hurdle candidate, at Naas nine days earlier and William Hill reacted to the result by shortening the latter to 7-1 from 8-1.

Finnegan's Hollow made sure Istabraq, who started at 11-4 on, was put to his best and the result did little to underline the favourite's Champion Hurdle claims.

Aidan O'Brien, the trainer of the first two, said that the Royal SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle was now a more likely target for Istabraq, a three-parts brother to Secreto, while Finnegan's Hollow has booked his place in the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

"I couldn't be disappointed. Istabraq stepped through the second last, was lucky to stand up and is a type only to do just enough anyway," O'Brien said.

The Irish champion trainer added that Istabraq and Finnegan's Hollow are unlikely to run again before Cheltenham and he will discuss their respective options with Charlie Swan, the stable jockey, and the owner, J P McManus.

Toast The Spreece will be another representative of O'Brien at Cheltenham after making it four out of four over jumps in the Stepaside Handicap Hurdle. After an easy success, O'Brien also nominated this one for the Supreme Novices' but the Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle is another option, depending on the weight allotted.

The newcomer, Commanche Court, emerged from a clouded juvenile picture as the best Irish hope for the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham with a smooth success.

Trained by the Irish television personality, Ted Walsh, Commanche Court, winner of the Austrian Derby last year when trained in France, beat Hard News by two lengths to become a general 14-1 shot for the juvenile championship at Cheltenham.

"I dearly hope he'll be able to line up for the Triumph, but when you see horses in the past like See You Then and Monksfield being beaten in the race, it is crazy to be confident," Walsh said. "He looks the best of ours and seems to have transferred the class he possessed on the Flat to hurdling.

"I was surprised he jumped as well as he did, but he looks like he would like a dig in the ground at Cheltenham. We will run him again at Punchestown in two weeks' time first."

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

1.50 For Cathal
2.20 Oakbury
2.50 Daring Past
3.20 Dockmaster
3.50 Kilcolgan
4.20 Whip Hand

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
4.20 WHIP HAND.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.50 KENTON NOVICES CHASE
(£2,902: 3m) (9 runners)

101 36-260F ARISTODEMUS 63 (Mrs L Marshall) Mrs L Marshall 8-11-4 ... K Johnson —
102 54 BLACK BROOK 44 (P Sellars) M Hammond 8-11-4 ... R Garritty 75
103 021-F2 CELTIC GIANT 45 (BF,S) (R Gilbert) L Lungo 7-11-4 ... R Supple 87
104 23 FOR CATHAL 20 (BF) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4 ... P Niven [illegible]
105 324P PANTARA PRINCE 20 (D Cox) J Charlton 8-11-4 ... A Dobbin 84
106 P0-4000 POCAIRE GAOITHE 14 (D Batey) W Storey 7-11-4 ... M Moloney —
107 P05P-6F STRONGALONG 63 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4 ... A S Smith 71
108 1116-3 TURNPOLE 75 (BF,G,S) (W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4 ... N Smith —
109 54 CULLANE LAKE 17 (Mrs J Milligan) Miss M Milligan 7-10-13 ... B Storey 82

BETTING: 6-4 Turnpole, 5-2 Celtic Giant, 5-1 For Cathal, 10-1 Pantara Prince, 12-1 Black Brook, 14-1 Pocaire Gaoithe, 20-1 others.

1996: MALAWI 6-11-12 A S Smith (5-2) W Bethell 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARISTODEMUS best effort 3l 3rd of 10 to Irish Fountain in a handicap chase at Ballinrobe (2m 4f, good). BLACK BROOK tailed off 4th of 5 to Slotamatique in a novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft). CELTIC GIANT 5l 3rd of 6 to Lien de Famille in a novice chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). FOR CATHAL 4l 3rd of 15 to Choisty in a novice chase at Carlisle (3m, good) with PANTARA PRINCE tailed off when pulled up 4 out. PANTARA PRINCE best recent effort 7l 2nd of 8 to Naughty Future in a novice chase at Ayr (3m 1f, good). TURNPOLE 6½l 3rd of 5 to Tullymurry Toll in a handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). CULLANE LAKE 7l 4th of 9 to Seeking Gold in a novice chase at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, good).
Selection: FOR CATHAL

2.20 ADVENT CATERING AT THE PAVILION CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,984: 2m) (19 runners)

201 522313- BRACKENTHWAITE 388 (D,G) (J Stacher) J Eyre 7-11-12 ... C Elliott (8) 91
202 2531/5 SKIDDAW SAMBA 62 (F) (J Wills) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-8 ... D Webb (3) 90
203 3050/20 DOOLAR 61 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Farnes) P Dalton 10-11-2 ... M Newton 96
204 0560-00 HENRY HOOLET 7 (A Guthrie) P Monteith 8-11-1 ... G Cahill 97
205 500-303 OVER STATED 54 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-0 ... G F Ryan 93
206 6/00-5P PALACE OF GOLD 11 (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 7-10-11 ... W Dowling (8) —
207 440P0 NORTHERN FALCON 10 (B) (Mrs P Hartley) M W Easterby 4-10-10 ... F Leahy 88
208 50-01 KIERCHEM 16 (D,G) (Mrs M Hunter) C Grant 6-10-9 ... Michael Brennan 90
209 F40-342 TIOTAO 24 (R Anderson Green) C Parker 7-10-7 ... Tristan Davidson (10) 92
210 5U-6403 OAKBURY 52 (Townville C C) Miss L Siddall 5-10-6 ... T Davidson (10) [illegible]
211 4/5-4600 DOUBLING DICE 6 (R Allan) R Allan 6-10-6 ... S Melrose (3) 93
212 P5-5005 COOL STEEL 47 (B) (H Hewitt) Mrs J Brown 5-10-5 ... E Callaghan 93
213 F0050/3- MOSMO KING 499 (Mrs M Kendall) Mrs M Kendall 8-10-5 ... E Husband 91
214 53-0P46 TROY'S DREAM 24 (S Semple) M Hammond 6-10-5 ... R Burns (8) 95
215 060- FANADIYR 219F (D Callaghan) W Storey 5-10-4 ... R McGrath 97
216 0F-0004 MEADOWLECK 9 (W Young) W Young 8-10-3 ... G Lee 97
217 5404-0P STORMING LORNA 83 (I Smith) W McKeown 7-10-1 ... C McCormack (5) 84
218 5P5-000 COQUET GOLD 20 (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 6-10-0 ... S Taylor 84
219 0P35/P6 CHARLVIC 9 (O Scott) W Cunningham 7-10-0 ... L McGrath (8) —

Long handicap: Coquet Gold 9-12, Charlvic 9-8.

BETTING: 4-1 Kierchem, 5-1 Brackenthwaite, 6-1 Tiotao, 7-1 Skiddaw Samba, 8-1 Over Stated, Palace Of Gold, 12-1 others.

1996: FRIENDLY KNIGHT 6-10-12 B Harding (6-1) J Haldane 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRACKENTHWAITE beat Funny Rose ½l in a 12-runner selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good) penultimate start last season. SKIDDAW SAMBA 13½l 5th of 8 to Kemo Sabo in a conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). OVER STATED 2¾l 3rd of 17 to Robsera in a selling novice hurdle at Hexham (2m, good) with MEADOWLECK (6lb better off) 42l 11th. KIERCHEM beat Anorak 3l in a 15-runner conditional jockeys' selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good).
TIOTAO 4l 2nd of 12 to Tilaamium in a selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm) with TROY'S DREAM (1lb worse off) 6l 6th and DOUBLING DICE (1lb better off) 6½l 7th. OAKBURY two necks 3rd of 11 to Toulston Lady in a selling hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm). TROY'S DREAM 5½l 4th of 9 to Triennium in a selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, firm) penultimate start. MEADOWLECK 12½l 4th of 6 to Adib in a novices' handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good) with CHARLVIC (3lb better off) 30l last.
Selection: OVERSTATED

2.50 FENHAM NOVICES CHASE (£2,772: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

301 0/25221 BOLD BOSS 7 (D,G,S) (J Robson) S Moore 8-11-9 ... B Storey [illegible]
302 3301:1F DARING PAST 16 (D,BF,F,G,S) (J Petty) M Hammond 7-11-9 ... R Garritty 91
303 603F5R MONAUGHTY MAN 46 (S) (Mrs K Woodhead) E Caine 11-11-6 ... M Moloney 66
304 F DANDY DES PLAUTS 16 (J Wallace) Mrs S Smith 6-11-2 ... R Wilkinson (7) —
305 4U6-0F0 FRIENDLY KNIGHT 7 (G) (G Johnston) J Haldane 7-11-2 ... A S Smith —
306 65P-FU4 GLAMANGLITZ 51 (Mrs J Marno) P Dalton 7-11-2 ... R Supple —
307 PP00/P MOSS PAGEANT 7 (G) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 7-11-2 ... K Johnson —
308 300P1-0 ROBARA 45 (F) (D Nicholson) S Leadbetter 7-11-2 ... N Leach —

BETTING: 11-10 Bold Boss, 5-4 Daring Past, 10-1 Glamanglitz, 12-1 Dandy Des Plauts, 16-1 Friendly Knight, Robara, 25-1 others.

1996: FIVE TO SEVEN 7-11-4 P Carberry (9-4) C Thornton 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOLD BOSS beat Nocran 2½l in a 12-runner novice chase at Ayr (2m, good) with FRIENDLY KNIGHT (7lb better off) 32½l 8th and MOSS PAGEANT pulled up 2 out. Previously 5l 2nd of 18 to Nocran in a novice chase at Catterick (2m, good) with DARING PAST (6lb better off) 3rd and beaten when fell 3 out and DANDY DES PLAUTS (6lb better off) fell 6th.
DARING PAST beat Cush Supreme 6l in a 10-runner novice chase at Hexham (2m 110yd, good) penultimate start. MONAUGHTY MAN 50l 5th of 7 to Cruschot in a novices' handicap chase over course and distance (good). GLAMANGLITZ tailed off 4th of 9 to Art Prince in a maiden chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). MOSS PAGEANT beat The Raskins 5l in a 5-runner maiden open at Mosshouses (good) May 1995.
Selection: BOLD BOSS

3.20 MELTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,145: 3m) (22 runners)

401 0/11300- MOONSHINE DANCER 341 (F,G,S) (Aarons Archer Pairs) D Barker 7-11-11 P Midgley (3) 89
402 20/2311- NEW CHARGES 376 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Beaumont) P Beaumont 10-11-8 B Grattan (5) 92
403 353-234 SCARBA 54 (S) (Yorkshire Racing Club) J Jefferson 9-11-8 ... E Callaghan (3) 98
404 F05P6-F DOBLIN CASTLE 47 (BF,S) (Mrs D Greig) L Lungo 9-11-5 ... R Supple 98
405 005-036 SHALLOW RIVER 54 (G) (T Collins) R Collins 6-11-4 ... A Thornton 92
406 F4P-425 DUKE OF PERTH 20 (G) (W Black) H Johnson 6-11-2 ... P Carberry 95
407 0-53150 EXEMPLAR 14 (F,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 9-11-1 ... R Guest 97
408 440-450 GALEN 16 (J Renton) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 ... P Niven 87
409 0P1-050 KINGS LANE 14 (G) (J Dun) J Dun 8-10-10 ... D Parker 97
410 053-000 GRANDMAN 16 (S) (F Hever) D Moffatt 6-10-10 ... D J Moffatt 93
411 P0/P0-31 HUDSON BAY TRADER 54 (C,D,G,S) (P Curtis) P Beaumont 10-10-9 Miss P Robson 93
412 662-P05 DOCKMASTER 14 (S) (J Gordon) Miss M Milligan 6-10-8 ... A Dobbin [illegible]
413 5031/PP- SUVLA BAY 289 (D,G) (Lady Beattock) D Brennan 9-10-7 ... M Brennan —
414 0P5-623 QUIET MISTRESS 46 (B,C,S) (W Bethell) W Bethell 7-10-6 ... A S Smith 98
415 04-445F HOTSPUR STREET 44 (B) (S Clarke) M W Easterby 5-10-3 ... P Carberry 94
416 PUU/00P JIGGINSTOWN 44 (G) (Miss G Joughin) J J O'Neill 10-10-2 ... L Cooper (7) 85
417 555642 AIDE MEMOIRE 48 (S) (R Johnson) R Johnson 8-10-1 ... K Johnson 90
418 4/433-50 MARDOOD 54 (G,S) (S Clark) S Clark 12-10-0 ... J Supple 89
419 022483 HAUGHTON LAD 14 (V Dolan) J Parkes 8-10-0 ... V Smith 89
420 0-4P60P FARMERS SUBSIDY 14 (White Hart In Hawes) G Moore 5-10-0 ... N Bentley 96
421 0/00-000 THE OTHER MAN 11 (Stonebridge Racing) Miss L Siddall 7-10-0 ... O Pears —
422 PP/00/0 PRINCE BALTASAR 11 (G Allison) N Bycroft 8-10-0 ... G Cahill —

Long handicap: Mardood 9-10, Haughton Lad 9-9, Farmers Subsidy 9-9, The Other Man 9-4, Prince Baltasar 8-7

BETTING: 6-1 Hudson Bay Trader, 7-1 Scarba, Duke Of Perth, 8-1 New Charges, 10-1 Galen, Hotspur Street, 12-1 others.

1996: ABLE PLAYER 9-10-12 J Burke (11-1) Mrs S Bramall 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

NEW CHARGES beat Golden Nugget 13l in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 3f 110yd, good to firm) final start last season. DUKE OF PERTH 12¾l 5th of 8 to Raflaglio in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (3m 1f, good). EXEMPLAR best recent effort beat Tallywagger 1¾l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). HUDSON BAY TRADER beat Ballindoo 1¾l in 12-runner amateurs handicap hurdle at Hexham (3m, good) with SCARBA (5lb better off) 1½l 4th, KINGS LANE (2lb better off) 7¾l 8th and MARDOOD (1lb better off) 9½l 10th. QUIET MISTRESS 1¾l 2nd of 14 to Mr Flotts in selling handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good to soft) penultimate start with MARDOOD (6lb better off) tailed off 5th. AIDE MEMOIRE 3½l 2nd of 12 to White Willow in claiming hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good).
Selection: AIDE MEMOIRE

3.50 GOSFORTH DECORATING AND BUILDING SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,420: 3m) (9 runners)

501 111340- OVER THE STREAM 310 (D,F,G) (J & E Gordon) Miss M Milligan 11-12-0 A Thornton 93
502 1PP5-P4 URANUS COLLONGES 44 (B,C,G,S) (Halewood Ltd) J Fitzgerald 11-11-5 R Garritty —
503 0244-3F KILCOLGAN 63 (F,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-10-12 ... G Cahill 97
504 3/P-3413 SLOTAMATIQUE 14 (F,S) (Slotamatics Ltd) G Richards 8-10-10 ... A Dobbin 91
505 03U020 GALE AHEAD 16 (D,BF,F,G) (J Robson) G Moore 7-10-5 ... B Storey 98
506 F46/234 ROAD BY THE RIVER 20 (CD,G,S) (T McDonagh) P Cheesbrough 9-10-4 A S Smith 98
507 P-32345 CELTIC SILVER 51 (F,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 9-10-0 ... R Guest [illegible]
508 41-P61P HURRICANE ANDREW 13 (D,F,G,S) (J Moore) J Moore 9-10-0 ... N Smith 91
509 545-PP3 SNOOK POINT 16 (G) (I Jordon) D Lamb 10-10-0 ... J Burke 91

Long handicap: Hurricane Andrew 9-10, Snook Point 8-11

BETTING: 5-2 Slotamatique, 7-2 Celtic Silver, 6-1 Kilcolgan, Road By The River, 7-1 Uranus Collonges, Gale Ahead, 10-1 others.

1996: FIVELEIGH BUILDS 9-11-9 A Thornton (9-2) Miss L Russell 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

URANUS COLLONGES 40l 4th of 7 to Pink Gin in a handicap chase at Haydock (4m 110yd, good to soft). KILCOLGAN best effort about 1¾l 3rd of 8 to Into The Red in handicap chase here (3m 6f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
SLOATAMATIQUE 9½l 3rd of 5 to Son Of Iris in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to firm) GALE AHEAD best effort 2l 2nd of 10 to Kenmore-Speed in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good). CELTIC SILVER best effort about 4l 3rd of 5 to Ballyea Boy in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good) Nov 96.
HURRICANE ANDREW best effort beat Forward Glen ¾l in 7-runner handicap chase at Musselburgh (3m, good to firm).
Selection: CELTIC SILVER (nap)

4.20 NORTHERN RACING NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,369: 2m) (21 runners)

601 1/41 WHIP HAND 11 (D,G) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Fitzgerald 6-11-10 ... P Carberry [illegible]
602 5-3 BUTTERWICK KING 20 (Miss M Barker) R Fahey 5-11-4 ... D Byrne 82
603 2/P4 CLAVERING 20 (BF) (G Maguire) H Johnson 7-11-4 ... J F Titley 78
604 050-6 DAN DE MAN 44 (D Powler Partners) Miss L Siddall 6-11-4 ... A Thornton 68
605 DROMORE DREAM 680P (G) (Mrs J Newby) Mrs J Brown 8-11-4 Mr S Swiers —
606 0 ITSAHARDLIFE 18 (A Peake) M Hammond 6-11-4 ... R Burns (7) —
607 0 LA RIVIERA 63 (J Hogg) J Charlton 5-11-4 ... K Johnson —
608 /04PS/ MASTER FLASHMAN 692 (Pottie-Wilson Partners) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 P Niven —
609 600 MENALDI 13 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4 ... A S Smith 67
610 00 MONTEIN 20 (D Montgomerie) S Leadbetter 6-11-4 ... N Leach —
611 0 NO FINER MAN 44 (Got Foods) G Richards 6-11-4 ... A Dobbin —
612 0/60 PRINCE OF SAINTS 16 (J Buzzeo) M Hammond 6-11-4 ... R Garritty 68
613 0/ RAMBLING LANE 1024 (Mrs W Morton) R Allan 8-11-4 ... S Melrose (7) —
614 05-5156 SILVER MINX 46 (G) (Mrs E Kettlewell) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 ... R Hodge —
615 6-2120 SIOUX WARRIOR 7 (B,F) (D Douglas) N Tinkler 5-11-4 ... E Husband (3) —
616 0 UN POCO LOCO 86 (R Burridge) Mrs J Brown 5-11-4 ... G Lee (3) —
617 00-000 ALAN'S PRIDE 20 (P Leyden) W McKeown 6-10-13 ... G Cahill 61
618 6/0-6045 DARK PHOENIX 10 (V,BF,G) (Mrs P Brennan) O Brennan 7-10-13 ... M Brennan 83
619 GRAMPSAWINNA (Miss A Bennett) G Oldroyd 3-10-13 ... E Callaghan (8) —
620 00/0 HENBRIG 46 (Mrs S Dewar-Finch) G Oldroyd 7-10-13 ... B Storey —
621 00 SANTA BARBARA 52 (J Thompson) C Grant 6-10-13 ... R Supple —

BETTING: 2-1 Whip Hand, 6-1 Clavering, 7-1 Butterwick King, 10-1 No Finer Man, 12-1 Dromore Dream, Dark Phoenix, 14-1 others.

1996: TOM BRODIE 6-11-13 P Carberry (6-4) H Johnson 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHIP HAND beat Durano 3l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). BUTTERWICK KING 4½l 3rd of 14 to Durango in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good) with CLAVERING 8½l 4th and ALAN'S PRIDE 25l 9th.
CLAVERING best effort 2l 2nd of 12 to Claverhouse in national hunt flat race at Ayr (2m, good to firm) Apr 95. DROMORE DREAM beat Apple Nicking 15l in 9-runner open race at Newton Bromswold (3m, good). SIOUX WARRIOR best effort 6l 2nd of 4 to Carlisle Bandito in national hunt flat race at Musselburgh (2m, firm).
DARK PHOENIX about 9½l 5th of 18 to I'm A Dreamer in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: WHIP HAND

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
W Bethell	3	6	50.0	Martin Brennan	3	9	33.3
O Brennan	3	9	33.3	P Niven	36	134	26.9
J Jefferson	8	30	26.7	P Carberry	3	13	23.1
Mrs M Reveley	32	140	22.9	N Bentley	7	43	16.3
G Richards	14	65	21.5	R Garritty	9	56	16.1
M W Easterby	10	47	21.3	D Byrne	4	26	15.4
P Cheesbrough	13	71	18.3	A Dobbin	14	101	13.9
J Fitzgerald	10	57	17.5	A Thornton	5	37	13.5

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS	1st	2nd	3rd	Top stake win	Level stake
M Pipe	124	73	62	1	+2.47
D Nicholson	50	40	30	1	-31.19
K Bailey	50	41	26	1	+10.23
Mrs M Reveley	47	34	23	1	-9.92
P Hobbs	44	33	33	1	-63.88
P Nicholls	39	35	19	9	-22.45
M Hammond	36	39	36	8	-114.32
G Richards	35	17	8	1	+5.27

JOCKEYS	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stake
A P McCoy	130	91	51	2	+5.18
J Osborne	68	53	36	5	-5.58
A Maguire	65	63	53	8	-101.95
R Dunwoody	61	62	42	1	-92.61
R Johnson	59	50	44	2	+12.29
D Bridgwater	53	37	36	1	-23.30
A Dobbin	52	29	30	2	-11.41
P Niven	49	31	29	6	+4.97

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FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

SPECIALISTS

FONTWELL PARK: Trainers: M Tompkins, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; M Pipe, 18 from 61, 29.5%; K Bailey, 8 from 31, 25.8%. Jockeys: J Osborne, 16 from 50, 32.0%; P Henley, 5 from 16, 31.3%; G Bradley, 8 from 29, 27.6%.

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: M Johnston, 44 from 205, 21.5%; M Meagher, 3 from 15, 20.0%; M Ryan, 19 from 104, 18.3%. Jockeys: D Holland, 17 from 85, 20.0%; D Harrison, 21 from 122, 17.2%.

Emotions run high as Wild Illusion triumphs

POINT-TO-POINT
BY CARL EVANS

TELEVISION cameras went to Larkhill and covered the sport for the first time on Saturday, but events at the Oxford University fixture at Kingston Blount lacked nothing in drama.

First Run For Free, a former Welsh and Scottish National winner, tackled the opening confined race but got tired and was pulled up sound with four fences to jump as Broad Steane won impressively.

Then Wild Illusion became the winner which all impartial followers of the sport had hoped for in the men's open. His two owners, Graham Pidgeon and Arthur Clerke-Brown, died within a week of each other at Christmas. Wild Illusion was their best horse and Clerke-Brown owned the land on which the Kingston Blount course is based.

Those who preferred to watch point-to-pointing on television courtesy of the Racing Channel's live coverage of the New Forest meeting saw Polly Curling ride her 100th winner for Richard Barber, Joe Tizzard break a collarbone, and a win for See More Business's previously unraced half-brother, Mister One.

The downside, and how ironic for the sport on this auspicious occasion, was the death of three horses.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS: THURLOW (Horseheath). Open Mdn: 1, Lord Knox (R Gill, 6-1); 2, Andy Gawe; 3, View Point. 9 ran. Confined: 1, River Melody (T Moore, 5-4 fav); 2, Horace; 3, Youcal. 5 ran. Men's Open: 1, The Artful Rascal (N Bloom, 11-10 fav); 2, Armagret; 3, Jimmy Mac Jimmy. 5 ran. Ladies: 1, One For The Chief (Miss A Embiricos, 7-4); 2, St Gregory; 3, Emsee-H. 7 ran. Rest: 1, Spartans Conquest (C Ward, 2-1); 2, Colonel Kenson; 3, Golden Fellow. 10 ran. Hunt: 1, Glenbricken (K Williams, 6-1); 2, Buckshot; 3, Linger Hill. 7 ran.

OXFORD UNIV HUNT CLUB (Kingston Blount): Confined: 1, Broad Steane (A Sansome, 9-4 fav); 2, Bishops Island; 3, Grecian Lark. 15 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Wild Illusion (R Lawther, 4-5 fav); 2, Kingofnobles; 3, Hackett's Farm. 13 ran. Ladies: 1, Blue Cheek (Miss C Spearing, 3-1); 2, Larry The Lamb; 3, Lake Mission. 13 ran. Hunt: 1, Warrior Bard (M Portman, 2-1); 2, Espy; 3, Hill Island. 5 ran. Rest: 1, Aj's Boy (A Hill, 2-1 fav); 2, Ravensdale Lad; 3, Orphan Olly. 16 ran. Mdn: 1, Duke Of Lancaster (N Sutton, 4-1 fav); 2, Mrs Moppit; 3, Full Score. 17 ran.

NEW FOREST (Larkhill): Confined: 1, Indian Knight (C Vigors, 7-2); 2, Aller Moor; 3, Roaming Shadow. 6 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Mostyn (Miss P Gundry, 10-1); 2, Tu Piece; only 2 finished. 5 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Chasing Daisy (Miss A Goschen, 25-1); 2, Marginal Margie; 3, Rum Customer. 13 ran. Mixed Open: 1, Suit In Business (T Mitchell, 11-10 fav); 2, Brackenfield; 3, Teatrader. 7 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Juniper Lodge (S Bush, 10-1); 2, Highway Lad; 3, Abit More Business. 10 ran. Open Mdn IV: 1, Mister One (T Mitchell, 4-6 fav); 2, Jack Sun; 3, Lazzaretto. 9 ran. Rest: 1, Pines Express (Miss S Vickery, 2-1 fav); 2, Good Looking Guy; 3, Nobbutjust. 14 ran. PPORA: 1, Desert Waltz (Miss P Curling, 8-15 fav); 2, Front Cover; only 2 finished. 3 ran.

NORTH CORNWALL (Wadebridge): Hunt: 1, Gymcrak Dawn (D Stephens, 5-2); finished alone. 4 ran. Men's Open: 1, Fearsome (G Penfold, 4-1); 2, Biancoril; 3, Glenform. 5 ran. Ladies: 1, Larky McIlroy (Miss L Blackford, 4-1); 2, Midbelder; 3, Lucky Ole Son. 5 ran. Rest: 1, Mountain Master (Miss L Blackford, 4-1); 2, Hopeful Drummer; 3, Gypsy Luck. 10 ran. Confined: 1, Just Bert (Miss S Young, Evens fav); 2, Departure; 3, Oneovertheight. 4 ran. Intermediate: 1, Balchu Chance (J Young, 2-1); 2, Tangle Baron; 3, Big Seamus. 4 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Scallykenning (J Young, 5-1); 2, Rose's Lady Day; 3, Cornish Twoways. 3 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Gypsy Gerry (L Jefford, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Brook A Light; 3, Keep Flowing. 13 ran.

OLD RABY HUNT CLUB: Postponed because of frost. The meeting will now take place on February 15.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER
1.40 Joy For Life. 2.10 Dear Do. 2.40 Adilov. 3.10 Vol Par Nuit. 3.40 Neat Feat. 4.10 Rose King. 4.40 Macy.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.40 PAGRAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,160: 2m 6f 110yd) (18 runners)

1 5P/0 QUELQUE CHOSE 11 (S) B Meehan 7-11-10 ... R Hughes —
2 322/ MULL HOUSE 80F (V) G Enright 10-11-5 ... A Maguire —
3 -061 KAYFAAT 55 (V,G,S) M Pipe 9-11-4 ... C Maude 96
4 2F5P KESANTA 58 W G M Turner 7-11-3 ... J Power (7) 85
5 3-00 HIGHLY DECORATED 7 (B,G,S) Miss A Newton-Smith 12-11-0 J K McCarthy (7) —
6 P441 DO BE WARE 7 (F,G,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 7-10-10 (7ex) B Fenton 96
7 4345 ROBERT'S PAL 87 (G,S) P Eccles 10-10-7 ... D Gallagher 96
8 P500 RAAHIN 5 (CD,F,G,S) S Woodman 12-10-4 ... S McNeill 84
9 -P20 JOY FOR LIFE 11 R Stronge 8-10-3 ... R Johnson [illegible]
10 02/0 SHAAGNI ANA 13 J Smyth-Osbourne 6-10-1 ... W Marston —
11 PF00 MASTER GOODENOUGH 12 A Foster 6-10-0 ... D Creech (7) —
12 2040 TUG YOUR FORELOCK 42 G Johnson Houghton 6-10-0 D Finnegan (7) 88
13 0P/0 HONEST DAVE 16 B Pearce 7-10-0 ... K Gaule —
14 0000 CAREY'S COTTAGE 48 (B) Mrs P Townsley 7-10-0 D Bridgwater 85
15 P-P5 CRAVATE 18 P Hobbs 7-10-0 ... M Moran (7) 80
16 -P0P PROFESSION 61 F Gray 6-10-0 ... R Farrant —
17 0604 REMEMBER STAR 13 A Smith 4-10-0 ... N Williamson 80
18 -0/FU SCORPION BAY 69 D Bresch Davis 9-10-0 ... J Magee (3) —

3-1 Kayfaat, 5-1 Do Be Ware, 7-1 Kesanta, Mull House, 8-1 Tug Your Forelock, Cravate, 10-1 others.

2.10 SIDLESHAM HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,944: 2m 2f) (6)

1 -224 DEAR DO 17 (CD,F,G,S) N Henderson 10-11-10 J R Kavanagh [illegible]
2 14-0 CHURCHTOWN PORT 7 (C,S) P Butler 7-11-6 ... N Williamson 91
3 2/46 RED BEAN 51 (G,S) K Vincent 9-11-3 ... D Bridgwater 90
4 PP51 WHIPPERS DELIGHT 7 (G,S) G Charles-Jones 9-11-1 (7ex) Mr A Charles-Jones 96
5 45P6 SHREWD JOHN 7 (F,G) Miss K George 11-10-12 D Gallagher 90
6 P31U CASTLECONNER 44 (B,D,G) R Frost 6-10-3 ... J Frost 91

2-1 Whippers Delight, 9-4 Dear Do, 5-2 Castleconner, 10-1 Churchtown Port, 12-1 Shrewd John, 16-1 Red Bean.

2.40 CHICHESTER NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,249: 2m 2f 110yd) (16)

1 -455 NIGHT IN A MILLION 89 S Woodman 6-11-6 ... J Osborne 81
2 336F ADILOV 7 J Bridger 5-11-3 ... A Maguire 97
3 -340 MULLINTOR 12 R Rowe 6-11-3 ... D O'Sullivan 89
4 04P ZADOK 12 J Ffitch-Heyes 5-11-3 ... P Henley (3) 84
5 -BPP FAIR HAUL 59 R Frost 6-11-0 ... J Frost —
6 0 JOVIE KING 88 R Buckler 5-11-0 ... B Powell 80
7 0000 BABA SAM 18 P Eccles 5-10-11 ... D Gallagher 66
8 00 NODDADANTE 72 N Mitchell 7-10-11 ... Sophie Mitchell (5) —
9 42 FAIRELAINE 55 K Bailey 5-10-9 ... Mr R Wakley (7) 95
10 -0P0 DECEIT THE SECOND 10 (B) P Rodford 5-10-8 M Griffiths (7) —
11 -0P0 JUST A BEAU 53 Mrs L Jewell 6-10-8 ... D Leahy —
12 10 ZESTI 10 (CD,G) T Clement 5-10-8 ... N Mann 92
13 PF JACK OF DIAMONDS 11 R O'Sullivan 9-10-5 ... D O'Sullivan —
14 20-5 JUST-MANA-MOU 152 (BF) W G M Turner 5-10-5 N Willmington (7) [illegible]
15 0-0P SPECIAL TOPIC 49 A Jones 7-10-3 ... S Curran —
16 040- OLIVIPET 511 F Gray 8-10-0 ... Mr R Thornton (5) —

3-1 Fairelaine, 7-1 Adilov, Zesti, 8-1 Just-Mana-Mou, Just A Beau, 10-1 Mullintor, Night In A Million, 12-1 others.

3.10 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE
(Qualifier: £3,720: 3m 2f 110yd) (8)

1 214F KEEP IT ZIPPED 47 (B,CD,F,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-3 J Osborne [illegible]
2 P-65 DUNLIR 10 (F) P Rodford 7-10-10 ... M Griffiths (7) —
3 3-PP LITTLE ROWLEY 12 Mrs L Richards 8-10-10 ... M Richards —
4 06PP STROKESAVER 11 (F) C Brooks 7-10-10 ... G Bradley —
5 056 THUNDER ROAD 5 R Dickin 6-10-10 ... J Culloty 92
6 F003 VOL PAR NUIT 100 F Doumen (Fr) 6-10-10 Mr T Doumen (5) —
7 6 WITHYCOMBE HILL 11 P Hobbs 7-10-10 ... Mr S Durack (7) —
8 -035 PAVLOVA 10 R Rowe 7-10-5 ... D O'Sullivan 92

4-6 Vol Par Nuit, 7-2 Keep It Zipped, 8-1 Withycombe Hill, 10-1 Pavlova, 14-1 Strokesaver, 16-1 Dunlir, 20-1 others.

3.40 STREBEL BOILERS AND RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE SERIES (Qualifier: £2,301: 2m 2f 110yd) (6)

1 0414 DOMINION'S DREAM 48 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-10 G Supple 93
2 -035 LESSONS LASS 44 (D,F) Lady Herries 5-11-8 ... J Osborne 85
3 0-65 WATCH MY LIPS 44 (S) M Tompkins 5-11-6 ... A Maguire [illegible]
4 -246 NEAT FEAT 53 (F) D Elsworth 6-11-2 ... P Holley 90
5 -502 MUHTASHIM 45 (S) J Ffitch-Heyes 7-10-12 ... B Fenton 91
6 -05P FLOW BACK 32F G Enright 5-10-0 ... R Johnson —

2-1 Dominion's Dream, 3-1 Lessons Lass, 7-2 Neat Feat, 9-2 Watch My Lips, 6-1 Muhtashim, 25-1 Flow Back.

4.10 BOGNOR REGIS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,930: 3m 2f 110yd) (12)

1 /5-3 ROSE KING 17 (S) Miss S Edwards 10-12-0 ... Mr T Hills [illegible]
2 43-P ROYAL SAXON 53 (F,G,S) P Bowen 11-12-0 ... R Johnson 86
3 5U43 BLACK CHURCH 12 (F,S) R Rowe 11-11-9 ... D O'Sullivan 93
4 63-P SILVERINO 14 (B,D,G,S) S Earle 11-11-5 ... C Maude 97
5 2460 ICANTELYA 11 (V,G,S) J Mullins 8-11-4 ... S Curran 88
6 3PP4 MINGUS 88 (F,S) R Buckler 10-10-9 ... B Powell 96
7 502F PRIZE MATCH 10 (S) J Tuck 8-10-8 ... S McNeill 90
8 -PP6 RAINBOW FOUNTAIN 45 (G) N Lampard 10-10-5 Mr A Kinane 90
9 3-24 MASTER COMEDY 70 (B,CD,F,G) Miss L Bower 13-10-5 N Williamson 94
10 P633 POLICEMANS PRIDE 10 M Madgwick 8-10-0 ... D Morris 90
11 -P4P VICTORY GATE 12 (B) Mrs L Jewell 12-10-0 ... D Gallagher —
12 00/4 ALBURY GREY 61 (F) T McGovern 10-10-0 ... G Crone —

4-1 Black Church, 7-1 Policemans Pride, Prize Match, Master Comedy, Icantelya, 8-1 Rose King, 10-1 others.

4.40 LEVY BOARD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,214: 2m 2f) (8)

1 0 CALDEBROOK 12 J Gifford 6-11-4 ... S Laird (7) —
2 4 GOWER-SLAVE 47 P Bowen 5-11-4 ... Mr R Thornton (5) —
3 HULALEA Miss S Edwards 5-11-4 ... Mr T Hills —
4 0 TEDROSS 12 Miss A Newton-Smith 6-11-4 ... P Henley (3) —
5 KINGSWOOD IMPERIAL R O'Sullivan 4-10-8 N Willmington (7) —
6 MACY R Dickin 4-10-8 ... X Aizpuru (7) —
7 CLAREGARY R Rowe 4-10-3 ... A Gavity (7) —
8 SEE MINNOW Miss S Waterman 4-10-3 ... D Salter (5) —

5-2 Claregary, 3-1 Gower-Slave, 7-2 Caldebrook, 9-2 Kingswood Imperial, 7-1 Macy, 16-1 See Minnow, 25-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Fontwell Park: 1.40 Carey's Cottage, Mull House 4.10 Icantelya. Newcastle: 4.20 Dark Phoenix, Sioux Warrior

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
1.30 Ballard Lady. 2.00 TREASURE TOUCH (nap). 2.30 Golden Hadeer. 3.00 Maftun. 3.30 Domino Flyer. 4.00 Elton Ledger. 4.30 Pleasure Trick.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.30 MACKENZIE HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,944: 7f) (14 runners)

1 0103 LADY SILK 10 (C,G,S) Miss J Craze 6-9-10 ... S Webster 3
2 3-15 BALLARD LADY 10 (C,D,G,S) J Wainwright 5-9-8 J Bramhill (5) 9
3 000/ WALI 614J (CD,G,S) J Eyre 7-9-8 ... T Williams 11
4 -005 DAWALIB 17 (C,D,F,G) D Haydn Jones 7-9-8 ... C Rutter 4
5 25-0 MONIS 10 (V,F) J Balding 6-9-7 ... S Drowne 7
6 060- BARBARA'S JEWEL 177 A Bailey 5-9-6 ... D Wright 10
7 0-14 TRULY BAY 10 (B,CD,G) T Barron 4-9-4 ... D Harrison 14
8 0-00 NAPOLEON STAR 10 (B,F) S Bowring 6-9-4 ... S D Williams 6
9 50/0 HERSHEBAR 10 (C,G) Mrs V Aconley 7-9-2 ... M Deering 5
10 -646 PRIVATE FIXTURE 20 (D,G) D Marks 6-9-0 ... S Sanders 12
11 000- ARCUS 48 (B) W Muir 4-8-12 ... J Wilkinson (7) 8
12 -400 SHANOORA 7 (B,C,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-8 ... C Teague (3) 2
13 0604 CHEERFUL GROOM 9 (D,G) D Shaw 6-8-3 ... N Kennedy 13
14 3046 SPANISH STRIPPER 3 (F) M Chapman 6-8-2 ... D R McCabe 1

4-1 Dawalib, 5-1 Truly Bay, 6-1 Ballard Lady, Lady Silk, Napoleon Star, 10-1 Barbara's Jewel, Private Fixture, 12-1 others.

2.00 MISSOURI MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,294: 6f) (8)

1 302- CASTLE ASHBY JACK 195 P Howling 9-0 ... J Quinn 6
2 000- IMPISH 91 T Etherington 9-0 ... L Charnock 3
3 443- MANGUS 171 K Cunningham-Brown 9-0 ... C Munday 5
4 6-32 TREASURE TOUCH 17 (BF) G Moore 9-0 ... D Holland 4
5 05- WEET A BIT 37 R Hollinshead 9-0 ... D Griffiths (5) 7
6 CRACKERBOX H Akbary 8-9 ... W Ryan 2
7 00-0 KUSTOM KIT XPRES 10 S Bowring 8-9 ... S D Williams 8
8 60- SODELK 91 J Hetherton 8-9 ... M Tebbutt 1

5-4 Castle Ashby Jack, 5-2 Mangus, 3-1 Treasure Touch, 14-1 Weet A Bit, 16-1 Impish, Kustom Kit Xpres, 20-1 others.

2.30 MILE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,294: 2m) (14)

1 600- GLIDE PATH 129 (F,G) J Jenkins 8-11-7 ... M Mannish (3) 2
2 200- CHARTER 185 T Naughton 6-11-1 ... Mrs J Naughton (3) 10
3 1113 GOLDEN HADEER 17 (CD,G,S) M Ryan 6-10-8 S Lavallin (3) 7
4 11-3 PETOSKIN 12 (BF,F,G,S) J Pearce 5-10-8 ... Mrs L Pearce 5
5 00-1 SUDDEN SPIN 7 (CD,F,G) J Norton 7-10-8 (4ex) M H Naughton 11
6 030/ DARU 802J (F,G,S) R Hollinshead 8-10-3 ... Mr M Rimell 8
7 -154 EL NIDO 10 (CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 9-10-1 ... Miss R Clark (3) 3
8 440/ EUROLINK SHADOW 45J D McCain 5-9-12 ... G Lake (3) 4
9 52-0 STALLED 23 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) P Walwyn 7-9-11 Marchioness Blandford (3) 12
10 26-0 COLERIDGE 13 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Sheehan 9-9-10 Miss C Hannaford (7) 14
11 426- HARD LOVE 318 (G) J Eyre 5-9-8 ... Mrs C Williams (3) 9
12 000- OPEN AFFAIR 773 H Akbary 4-9-5 ... Miss I Foustok (3) 13
13 2023 SEA GOD 3 (C,G) M Chapman 6-9-4 ... Mrs S Bosley (3) 1
14 5210 ROYAL ACCLAIM 4 (V,C,F,G,S) R Dickin 12-9-0 Miss R J Patman (3) 6

3-1 Golden Hadeer, 7-2 Sudden Spin, 6-1 Petoskin, 8-1 El Nido, 10-1 Glide Path, Sea God, 14-1 Hard Love, 16-1 others.

3.00 AMAZON HANDICAP (£2,804: 1m 3f) (9)

1 0-05 ONEOFTHEOLDONES 21 (C,G) J Norton 5-9-10 ... G Carter 9
2 -322 MAFTUN 14 (BF,F) G Moore 5-9-8 ... D Holland 5
3 4-30 WILDFIRE 14 (CD,G,S) R Akehurst 6-8-10 ... S Sanders 8
4 004- RASCO 72J M Camacho 4-8-9 ... L Charnock 6
5 -331 KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 10 (C,F,G) J Parkes 7-8-8 D Harrison 4
6 0-41 UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 24 (CD,G) M Bielby 5-8-6 T Williams 2
7 1604 DOWN THE YARD 7 (C,F,G) M Chapman 4-8-4 ... D R McCabe 3
8 6-60 PALACEGATE JO 7 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 6-7-12 ... D Wright 1
9 0-05 FRED'S DELIGHT 10 (V) Mrs V Aconley 6-7-10 ... M Deering 7

11-4 Maftun, 3-1 Undawaterscubadiva, 4-1 Kilnamartyra Girl, 7-1 Oneoftheoldones, 8-1 Down The Yard, Palacegate Jo, 10-1 Wildfire, 12-1 others.

3.30 ORINOCO HANDICAP (£3,518: 1m) (10)

1 40-0 LOVEYOUMILLIONS 5 (F,G) N Tinkler 5-9-10 ... Kim Tinkler 9
2 4-11 JIBERSEN 12 (C,G,S) P Howling 5-9-7 ... S Whitworth 1
3 021- MAZUREK 89 (D,G) M Meagher 4-9-6 ... J Quinn 7
4 2-01 KINGCHIP BOY 17 (CD,F,G) M Ryan 8-9-6 ... A Clark 3
5 30-1 YEOMAN OLIVER 10 (B,CD,G) B McMahon 4-9-5 ... L Newton 6
6 206- UP IN FLAMES 162 (D,F,G) S Bowring 6-9-4 ... S D Williams 8
7 1104 GULF SHAADI 6 (CD,G) E Alston 5-9-2 ... S Drowne 10
8 3-13 DOMINO FLYER 24 (CD,BF,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 4-9-1 D Holland 5
9 0-03 GENUINE JOHN 10 J Parkes 4-9-0 ... D Harrison 2
10 -850 CEDEZ LE PASSAGE 5 (B,CD,G) K Cunningham-Brown 6-9-0 S Sanders 4

4-1 Mazurek, 9-2 Kingchip Boy, 5-1 Gulf Shaadi, Yeoman Oliver, 6-1 Jibersen, 7-1 Domino Flyer, 10-1 Genuine John, 12-1 others.

4.00 RIO GRANDE SELLING STAKES
(£2,085: 6f) (7)

1 2100 ELTON LEDGER 7 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-13 S Sanders 4
2 0111 SENSE OF PRIORITY 7 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 8-9-13 Alex Greaves 5
3 3-62 MYTTONS MISTAKE 7 (F) A Bailey 4-9-9 ... D Wright 3
4 000- TAKHLID 86 (F,S) D Chapman 6-9-9 ... L Charnock 6
5 000- WAVERLEY STAR 154 (B,C,D,F,G,S) J Wainwright 12-9-9 D McKeown 2
6 0-0 NANTGARW 17 D Burchell 4-9-4 ... K Sked (7) 1
7 000- TUTU SIXTYSIX 140 (F,G) E Incisa 6-9-4 ... Kim Tinkler 7

4-5 Sense Of Priority, 7-2 Myttons Mistake, 5-1 Elton Ledger, 8-1 Takhlid, 20-1 Waverley Star, Nantgarw, 25-1 Tutu Sixtysix.

4.30 MACKENZIE HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,944: 7f) (14)

1 6506 SHASHI 7 (C,F,G) Pat Mitchell 5-9-10 ... R Lappin 3
2 -514 ANITA'S CONTESSA 17 (C,D,G) B Palling 5-9-9 ... T Sprake 12
3 6P-0 DUFFERTOES 21 (D,G,S) M Ryan 5-9-4 ... A Clark 9
4 -406 LIVE PROJECT 10 (D,S) M Johnston 5-9-4 ... D Holland 14
5 -136 PLEASURE TRICK 10 (B,CD,F,G) E Incisa 6-9-2 Kim Tinkler 8
6 50-6 CINDY KATE 12 W Muir 4-9-1 ... C Rutter 11
7 00-4 GUY'S GAMBLE 24 (CD,G) J Wharton 4-9-0 ... J Fanning 4
8 656- KID ORY 37 (D,G) D Chapman 6-8-13 ... J Quinn 10
9 530- ROSEATE LODGE 136 (C,D,F,G) S Kettlewell 11-8-12 Jenny Benson (7) 13
10 4-05 RAGAZZO 14 (B,D,G) J Wainwright 7-8-8 ... L Charnock 7
11 006- ORANGE AND BLUE 119 (F) Miss J Craze 4-8-7 ... N Varley (3) 1
12 86-3 FIABA 14 (V,C,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-7 ... C Teague (3) 5
13 -530 MADONNA DA ROSSI 11 M Dods 4-8-1 ... J Bramhill (5) 6
14 -300 SUPREME ILLUSION 13 (B) John Berry 4-7-10 ... N Adams 2

7-2 Anita's Contessa, 5-1 Shashi, 7-1 Pleasure Trick, 8-1 Fiaba, 10-1 Live Project, Ragazzo, Roseate Lodge, 12-1 others.

FOOTBALL

Bolton and Lancing to prolong rivalry

By John Goodbody

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

ONE perennial rivalry in football is between North and South. It is therefore appropriate that Bolton and Lancing will meet in the final of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup.

There is little doubt how much this competition, now in its fifth season, provides a focus of interest and stimulus for improvement at independent schools, just as the Arthur Dunn Cup has done for their old boys' teams since 1902. What is surprising, in retrospect, is that the schools' tournament was not conceived until 1992.

The desire for victory fuelled the tension of the semi-finals, in which Bolton won 3-2 away to Manchester GS, their local rivals, while Lancing College beat King's, Chester 2-1.

Simon Rees, the PE director at Bolton, said: "For many boys, this competition is the pinnacle of their school sports careers, possibly of their entire sports careers." Adult teams often have the chance of future competitions together. However, schoolboys usually have only a season to grasp the heady excitement of success before leaving for employment or university.

The tautness of the occasion was evident at Lancing last week, with hundreds of spectators clustered round the Grubber Stand to watch the game being played on Upper Field, in front of one of the most picturesque backdrops in school sport. The chapel is on one side and the South Downs on the other.

Despite the tension, both teams displayed a control that was as welcome as their sustained commitment. The result was particularly frustrating for King's. They could have had three goals before half-time, but were frustrated by ill-luck, stout defending and wayward shooting.

Lancing scored in the sixteenth minute when Gareth Allen's long corner was headed back across goal by Dominic Wiltshire for Steve Bird to nod home. In the second half, the flow was more even. Matt Russell, who scored 26 goals last term, got Lancing's second, in the 72nd minute, before Damian Testi was fouled in the penalty area. Testi converted the kick himself.

Kevin Fear, joint master-in-charge of football at King's, who won the cup in 1994, said: "Their second goal really killed us off. Lancing were good at closing down our usual passing game and tended to knock the ball forward quite quickly."

Ken Shearwood, a member of the celebrated 1950s Pegasus team, said that he considers the present team as good as any that he has seen in his 46-year association with Lancing as master, registrar and now spectator. "Over the years the standard has got better," he said. "The skills have improved and the boys think about the game more."

Unlike King's, Lancing do not usually practise football this term, playing hockey, rugby and other sports. However, their progress in this competition is causing a rethink, with matches being hastily arranged before the semi-final and final.

They had two matches after Christmas to prepare for the semi-final. Chris Metcalf, the coach, will now be trying to raise their level of match fitness. They hope to have practice games under floodlights to become accustomed to the conditions in the final. They will need all the preparation that they can get.

Bolton have a younger team. Their talented back three, including Craig Jolley, who attends the Manchester United School of Excellence, are all in the fifth form. In goal is Richard Sellers, who has represented the Independent Schools.

They also have the necessary resilience. Rees said: "Against Manchester we went behind, but heads did not go down and they raised their game." Dan Barrett, Christian Waith and Richard Thompson scored for Bolton, Neil Evans and Dan Stanton for Manchester.

Three of the four previous finals have been won by northern sides. Bird, who scored Lancing's first goal, said: "We have got to show the North that the South can play football."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Lancing College put pressure on the King's, Chester goal during their close-fought semi-final in the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup

Junior lessons that have lasted a lifetime

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, on the need to preserve the essence of the game by providing a framework for the young

QUESTION: Would Tiger Woods be the force he is now if he had not had a real grounding in junior golf? Answer: No.

Woods's play has blossomed so quickly now that he is a professional because he acquired such a breadth of competitive experience while competing in junior golf.

Woods, though, is only one example of the importance of nurturing young players. Many of those who competed in the 1995 Ryder Cup began to develop their outstanding ability in organised tuition and competition given to them in their teens. Any attempt to bring more young players into the game is admirable.

I confess a vested interest in the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour, newly launched in association with The Times. Many years ago I played junior golf in Gloucestershire and Wales, competition that existed thanks to the efforts of men such as Bob Griffiths, at Stinchcombe Hill, Leslie Cox, from Bristol, who ran junior golf in the county, and many Welshmen, of whom the most notable was Ivor Nicholls, the son of Gwyn, the famous rugby player. But for these and other kind men, John Bloxham, from Cotswold Hills, might not have have gone on to play for England, Richard Abbott, from Bristol, might not have become one of several former juniors who went on to captain the Gloucestershire senior side, and Jeff Toye, who is now a Walker Cup selector, would not have reached the final of the Welsh senior championship when he was still 17.

I was not in the same class as these men, but I did play in occasional senior matches for Stinchcombe Hill. I can still remember the pleasure after competing against, say, Minchinhampton, of going in for a tea of boiled eggs and brown bread and afterwards taking three clubs and playing cross-country golf from the 1st to the 3rd green and back to the 18th. This was how you learnt to judge distance in the days before there were yardage charts. At the same time you were teaching yourself to play half shots — a run-up with a three-iron, for example.

DAIHATSU Junior GOLF TOUR THE TIMES

I was good enough to play regularly with my father and his friends and I learnt a lot about golf from them. I learnt, for example, how to watch my ball, marking it in the mind's eye the moment that it hit the ground. They taught me the enjoyment of foursomes golf and, if we did play a four-ball, how and when to pick up my ball when I was out of a hole. I was not a club-thrower or a swearer and if I had been they would have banged it out of me in no time.

I learnt to leave my bag on the side of the green nearest to the next tee, how to stand when attending the flag so that my shadow merged with the flag's, never to linger on a green while marking a card but to do it on the next tee. You quickly realised how and when to let the players behind through. Woe betide me if I was not ready to play when it was my turn or if I did not rake a bunker properly.

Thus I strongly approve of junior golf even though, sadly, there are still golf clubs where juniors have to be seen and not heard — and sometimes not even seen. Their presence should be encouraged. They should be taught the etiquette of the game and its traditions, the difference between a links and a parkland course, the importance of seaside golf and fast-running greens. They should have all this and more instilled into them for one reason and that is that they are the lifeblood of the game.

NETBALL

Murtagh anchors new-look England

By a Correspondent

AFTER their convincing victory over Wales in Cardiff last month, England are now eagerly looking forward to another international, against Ireland, on Saturday.

Harlow Sports Centre will provide the stage for an experimental England line-up as the selectors examine all available options before the tour to South Africa in the spring.

Accordingly, several senior players who featured in a strong side against Wales are rested, dictating promotion from the under-21s for others such as Tracey Neville. Even Liz Broomhead, the coach, is given a rare day off, her role being temporarily assumed by Mary Beardwood.

Indeed, the only player in the England line-up to have experienced playing against South Africa and Irene van Dyke, their formidable 6ft 3in goalshooter, during the 1995 world championship in Birmingham, is Fiona Murtagh, the England captain and centre. Ireland, however, should offer slightly less resistance than South Africa.

Murtagh must expect some teasing in the aftermath of an appearance on BBC Television's A Question of Sport on Friday night. Few women could fail to appreciate an evening with those charmers, John Barnes and Ally McCoist, yet others remain cynical as to netball's spectator appeal. Attempting to rectify this, Betty Galsworthy, the chairwoman of the All England Netball Association, is aiming to make netball more fluent than at present.

"After the 1995 world championships it was agreed that there were too many stoppages and the umpires were too high-profile," Galsworthy said. "Many people are happy with things, but we want a spectator game that is interesting to both play and watch. If the game is more interesting, it will be more attractive to sponsors and television."

Accordingly, at an international netball conference to be held in Barbados this summer, England delegates will propose that goalshooters and goalkeepers be allowed to enter the presently forbidden centre third of the court. As Galsworthy said: "This will be very popular with schoolgirls, who often do not like playing in these positions because they feel too restricted. It would allow them to be more involved. At elite level it would make the game more tactical and reduce the dominance of the often-tall goalshooter."

ENGLAND (v Ireland, Saturday): F Murtagh, M Buck, A Miller, T Neville, N Siddall, C Oldfield, V Dess, C Weaver, J Mann, K Aspinall

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THE TIMES
PRESENTS
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SATURDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm

12.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Stately Home (N Williamson, 5-1); 2, Land Afar (11-4); 3, Amber Valley (66-1). Simply Dashing 5-6 fav (f). 6 ran. NR: Aardwolf. 1½l, dist. P Bowen. Tote: £5.90; £2.40, £1.60. DF: £7.10. CSF: £18.13.

1.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Double Symphony (J Osborne, 13-2); 2, Chief's Song (10-11 fav); 3, Ground Nut (10-1). 6 ran. 5l, 4l. C Brooks. Tote: £5.30; £1.80, £1.30. DF: £3.90. CSF: £12.04.

1.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Dextra Dove (N Williamson, 8-1); 2, Northern Hide (12-1). Coome Hill 11-4 fav (f). 6 ran. 2½l. S Earle. Tote: £9.20; £2.70, £4.20. DF: £40.80. CSF: £73.21. Only two finished.

2.25 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Tullymurry Toff (E Callaghan, 7-2); 2, Yahmi (100-30 fav); 3, Outset (16-1). 13 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. J Jefferson. Tote: £5.20; £2.30, £2.30, £3.90. DF: £12.60. Trio: £121.40. CSF: £14.97. Tricast: £160.81. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Hayaain (J Railton, 8-1); 2, Northern Fleet (2-1 fav); 3, Name Of Our Father (12-1). 10 ran. 9l, 6l. K Bailey. Tote: £10.00; £2.00, £1.30, £2.60. DF: £20.60. Trio: £80.60. CSF: £24.95.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Certainly Strong (R Dunwoody, 9-4 fav); 2, Wee River (5-2); 3, Gales Cavalier (3-1). 4 ran. NR: Hedgehopper. 3l, 4l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.50. DF: £4.80. CSF: £7.18.

4.05 (2m 6f hdle) 1, El Freddie (L Harvey, 9-2); 2, Physical Fun (13-2); 3, Riding Crop (2-1 fav). 9 ran. NR: Dancetillyoudrop, Granham Pride. 1¼l, 23l. J Old. Tote: £6.10; £1.90, £1.80, £1.70. DF: £22.20. Trio: £14.60. CSF: £32.23.

Placepot: £1,090.70.

Quadpot: £191.90.

Chepstow

Going: good

1.15 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Bells Life (G Tormey, 7-2 fav); 2, Seek The Faith (14-1); 3, Mariners Mirror (11-2). 11 ran. 7l, 3l. P Hobbs. Tote: £4.40; £1.80, £3.20, £1.90. DF: £33.30. Trio: £63.60. CSF: £45.16. Tricast: £241.41.

1.45 (3m hdle) 1, Young Kenny (R Supple, 11-2); 2, Korbell (5-1); 3, Menesonic (12-1). Hurdante 3-1 fav. 10 ran. NR: Tilty. 1¾l, 3l. P Beaumont. Tote: £6.40; £1.70, £1.70, £3.20. DF: £10.10. Trio: £31.50. CSF: £32.24.

2.15 (3m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Flyer's Nap (D Bridgwater, 11-1); 2, Sunley Bay (9-2); 3, Full of Oats (13-8 fav). 8 ran. 8l, 3l. R Alner. Tote: £12.70; £3.70, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £21.00. CSF: £56.79. Tricast: £113.62.

2.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Scottish Wedding (R Johnson, 7-1); 2, Fontenays (5-1 fav); 3, Strike-A-Pose (14-1); 4, Hawanafa (20-1). 17 ran. 2l, 2l. T Wall. Tote: £8.00; £1.70, £1.10, £2.90, £5.30. DF: £21.90. Trio: £103.90. CSF: £39.57. Tricast: £460.63. Bought in 4,600gns.

3.20 (3m ch) 1, Tennessee Twist (R Farrant, 13-2); 2, Indian Tracker (2-1 fav); 3, Baronet (8-1). 12 ran. 2l, 17l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £7.30; £1.80, £1.40, £2.10. DF: £10.80. Trio: £27.40. CSF: £19.36.

3.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Kadastrof (X Aizpuru, 12-1); 2, Ambleside (11-10 fav); 3, Doctoor (25-1). 14 ran. NR: River Island. 3l, hd. R Dickin. Tote: £14.30; £3.40, £1.40, £9.90. DF: £22.90. Trio: £176.90. CSF: £27.94. Tricast: £382.01.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,846.01 carried forward to Newcastle today).

Placepot: £74.00. Quadpot: £18.60.

Wetherby

Going: good

1.10 (2m hdle) 1, Durano (D Byrne, 9-1); 2, Forever Noble (14-1); 3, New Century (14-1). Quango 6-4 fav. 23 ran. NR: Persian Sunset, Public Way. 2l, 1¼l. T Easterby. Tote: £10.30; £2.40, £3.10, £3.70. DF: £54.90. Trio: £121.50. CSF: £121.69.

1.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Catty Hang (A Dobbin, 11-1); 2, Chief Mester (4-6 fav); 3, Colonel In Chief (3-1). 6 ran. 1½l, nk. J Leigh. Tote: £8.20; £1.70, £1.30. DF: £4.50. CSF: £18.65.

2.10 (2m 7f hdle) 1, Purevalue (R Guest, 7-1); 2, Share Options (5-2); 3, Campaign (10-1). Tibetan 2-1 fav. 7 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. M W Easterby. Tote: £7.70; £2.90, £2.00. DF: £11.00. CSF: £23.07.

2.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Konvekta King (A Dobbin, 5-2 fav); 2, Kadi (9-2); 3, Down The Fell (4-1). 6 ran. 5l, 7l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.30; £1.90, £2.00. DF: £8.10. CSF: £12.76.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, Edelweis Du Moulin (P Carberry, 11-4); 2, Tom Brodie (7-1); 3, Celestial Choir (5-2 fav). 9 ran. 5l, nk. G Richards. Tote: £3.60; £1.60, £2.20, £1.40. DF: £11.20. Trio: £19.80. CSF: £20.82. Tricast: £48.95.

3.45 (3m 1f ch) 1, Cab On Target (Mr S Swiers, 8-13 fav); 2, Teaplanter (7-2); 3, Matt Reid (20-1). 10 ran. 3l, 22l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.10, £7.20. DF: £2.30. Trio: £17.80. CSF: £2.94.

4.20 (2m flat race) 1, Phar Smoother (W Dwan, 10-1); 2, Vineyard Knight (7-4 fav); 3, Generous Streak (6-1). 16 ran. 1¾l, 6l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £12.00; £2.70, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £20.40. Trio: £170.10 (part won; pool of £148.62 carried forward to today). CSF: £27.05.

Placepot: £109.60. Quadpot: £13.30.

Stratford

1.05 1, Eudipe (4-9 fav); 2, Blair Castle (9-1); 3, Clifton Game (7-2). 10 ran.

1.35 1, King Of Camelot (2-5 fav); 2, Winter Rose (5-1); 3, Frено (6-1). 5 ran.

2.05 1, Distinctive (4-1 jt-fav); 2, Scod Rioga (8-1); 3, Over The Pole (16-1). Arctic Wings 4-1 jt-fav. 10 ran.

2.35 1, Silver Standard (4-7 fav); 2, Smith Too (100-30); 3, Cambo (9-2). 3 ran.

3.05 1, Domaine De Pron (25-1); 2, Parahandy (2-1); 3, Poucher (11-8 fav). 8 ran.

3.40 1, River Wye (14-1); 2, Little Shefford (7-1); 3, Leap In The Dark (12-1). Dragonmist 7-2 fav. 12 ran.

Lingfield Park

1.30 1, Hawaii Storm (9-2); 2, Our Shadee (5-1); 3, Mediate (7-1). Rawi 7-2 fav. 9 ran.

2.00 1, Katar (6-4 fav); 2, Enchantica (4-1); 3, Imp Express (16-1). 6 ran.

2.35 1, Sir Tasker (9-2); 2, Ivory's Grab Hire (6-1); 3, Southern Dominion (16-1). Thick As Thieves 15-8 fav. 9 ran.

3.10 1, Zurs (2-7 fav); 2, Misky Bay (12-1); 3, Haute Cuisine (25-1). 5 ran.

3.40 1, Mr Nevermind (5-2 fav); 2, Naughty Pistol (6-1); 3, Speedy Classic (7-1). 8 ran.

4.15 1, Wottashambles (9-4 fav); 2, Random Kindness (6-1); 3, Royal Circus (16-1). 9 ran.

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The Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour in association with The Times

Entry Qualification (BOYS)
All amateur boy golfers aged eighteen and under on January 1st 1997 are eligible to enter the 1997 Tours. The Tournament for 1997 is limited to seventy two entrants on each of The National, Northern and Southern Tours.

Handicap Requirements
All entrants must have an official handicap of nine or less.

Rules of Play
i. The R & A Rules of Golf will govern play.
ii. All Events are eighteen hole medal.
iii. The best seven gross scores recorded by each competitor during the 1997 National Tour which comprises of ten Events will count towards the final order of merit. The best six gross scores recorded by each competitor during the 1997 Northern and Southern Tours which both comprise of eight Events will count towards the final order of merit.
iv. Competitors will play in three balls at each Event.
v. In the event of a tie for first place in the final order of merit on any Tour, then a play-off will take place.
vi. All individual Event winners will be invited to take their place in the end of year Tournament of Champions, held over two days and thirty six holes at Chart Hills Golf Club.

All successful applicants will be provided with Official Junior Golf Tour Clothing at the start of the year.

Entry Qualification (GIRLS)
All amateur girl golfers aged eighteen and under on January 1st 1997 are eligible to enter the Invitation Events to be held in the North and South of England. Each event is limited to thirty entrants.

Handicap Requirements
All players must have an official handicap of eighteen or less.

Rules of Play
i. The R & A Rules of Golf will govern play.
ii. Each Event is eighteen hole medal.
iii. Prizes for the gross and nett winners will be awarded at each Event.

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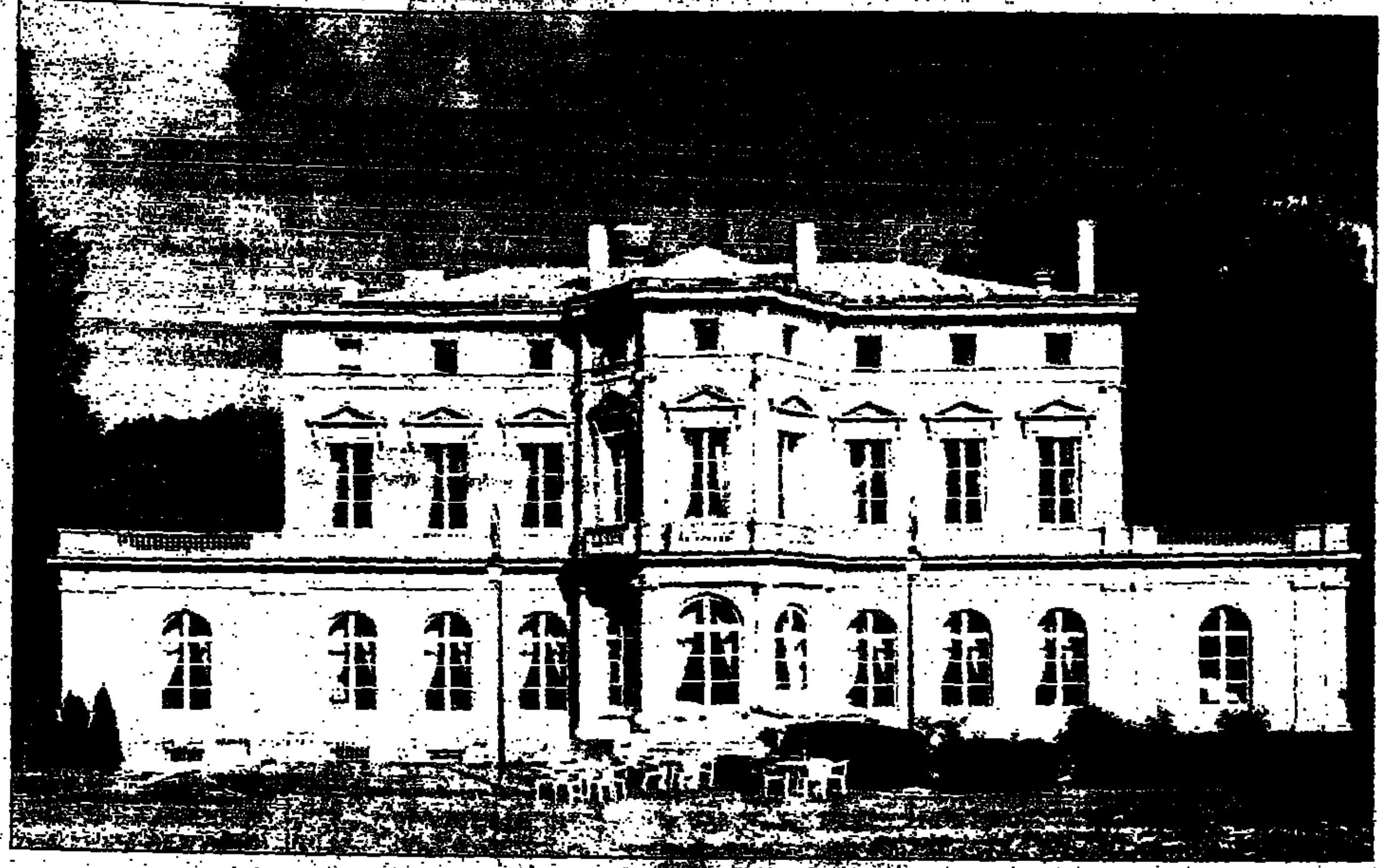
THE TIMES



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LILLE Fimotel 2* Central position close to the historic old town RO £29 £39 £19 £5pp Supp. Mon-Thur
Ibis Hôtel de Ville 2* Close to the Euralille shopping complex and Eurostar station RO £29 £39 £19
Le Grand Hôtel Bellevue 3* Elegant 18th century hotel in the centre RO £39 £49 £23
Sofitel Metropole 4* Elegant piano bar and restaurant BB £39 £49 £26
Hôtel Alliance 4* A marriage of 17th century convent and modern hotel RO £39 £49 £27 £5pp Supp. Mon-Thur
LUMBRES Moulin de Mombreux 4* *Converted 18th century watermill with a Michelin-starred restaurant. Stay two nights for the price of one.* RO £39 £49 £31
LYON Clarine Perrache 2* Comfortable, modern with bar and restaurant RO £29 £39 £16
Best Western Hotel Carlton 3* Traditional, central RO £39 £49 £23
MAFFLIERS (NR PARIS) Novotel Château de Maffliers 3* Nineteenth-century château hotel 22km north of Paris. Tennis, archery and horseriding (all payable) RO £29 £39 £19
MEAUX Clarine 2* On the edge of Meaux, 15 minutes' drive from Disneyland, a modern hotel run by a husband and wife team RO £29 £39 £16
MONTREUIL Les Hauts de Montreuil 2* *16th-century coaching inn in the heart of historic Montreuil, an hour's drive from Calais. The gastronomic restaurant has beams and open fire* RO £29 £39 £21 £5pp supp. for bath/WC
NICE Novotel Centre 3* Near the Palais des Expositions RO £29 £39 £19
Sofitel 4* Sauna and gym, *panoramic views over the old town*, RO £29 £39 £19

Holiday Inn Garden Court, Ostend: 3-star from £39 per person

Quality Hotel 3* Recently renovated only 10 minutes from the beach RO £39 £49 £23
Holiday Inn Resort Nice 4* On the beachfront west of Nice *and close to the marina and the Cap 3000 shopping centre* RO £49 £59 £41
OMAHA BEACH Mercure 3* Close to the D Day landing beaches, modern and part of a 27-hole golf complex overlooking the sea RO £29 £39 £19 Available March 1-27 only.
PARIS Forest Hill Bougival 3* *West of Paris on the banks of the Seine, with a restaurant* overlooking the river, public transport to centre approx £3 RO £24 £34 £15
Hotel Godefroy 2* Small, traditional hotel in the west of Paris near La Defense RO £24 £34 £15
Sovereign Clichy 3* *Charming, small hotel near Metro* RO £29 £39 £15
Sovereign St Ouen 2* On the banks of the Seine to the north-west of Paris, striking, modern RO £29 £39 £15
Amarys Lamarck 2* Near Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur RO £29 £39 £15 Min two nights stay.
Hotel de Dion Bouton 2* Views over the Seine, *small, traditional* RO £29 £39 £16
Hotel Espace Champerret 2* Recently renovated, north west *of city centre. Metro: Louise Michel* RO £29 £39 £16
Jardin de Paris Montmartre 2* Within walking distance of the Sacre Coeur RO £29 £39 £18 Fri-Sun only
Dauphin 3* Free fitness centre, solarium and sauna, easily accessible from the Paris *ringroad*. BB £29 £39 £19
Neuilly Park 3* *Quiet sidestreet in fashionable Neuilly.* BB £29 £39 £19
Princesse Isabelle 3* Excellent location for those wishing to drive to Paris, free access to a fitness centre. BB £29 £39 £19
Hotel Etoile Maillot 3* Within walking distance of the Arc de Triomphe, charming, *antique furnishings* RO £36 £46 £22
Hotel Montholon 3* Off Rue Lafayette, convenient for Eurostar clients arriving at Gare du Nord BB £36 £46 £24
Comfort Hotel Republique 3* Close to the Place de la Republique, *modern, comfortable* RO £36 £46 £25
Montmartre Inn 2* Recently renovated, close to the Moulin Rouge BB £36 £46 £23
Comfort Inn Mouffetard 3* New hotel fifteen minutes' walk to the heart of the Latin Quarter. BB £39 £49 £27
Comfort Hotel St Augustin 3* Between the *Champs Elysees* and the Opera BB £39 £49 £28
Jardin de Paris Marais 2* Small, traditional hotel in the oldest area of Paris RO £39 £49 £29
Grand Hotel de l'Univers 3* Located on a cobbled sidestreet *in the heart of the colourful Latin Quarter* BB £49 £59 £37
St Paul 3* Dates back to the 17th century, breakfast in the stone-vaulted cellar BB £49 £59 £37
Comfort Hotel Louvre Montana 3* Close to the Tuileries gardens and the Place Vendome BB £49 £59 £38
Holiday Inn Paris Bastille 4* Modern, comfortable and close to the new Opera house. RO £49 £59 £47
Holiday Inn La Villette 4* *Ideal for self-drive clients, close to Cité des Sciences.* RO £49 £59 £47
Elysées Regencia 4* Excellent *location* BB £59 £69 £54
PONT L'EVEQUE Climat 2* Motel-style hotel opposite a lake and leisure area RO £29 £39 £16
RECQUES Château de Cocove 3* 18th century *château* a 15-minute drive from Calais RO £39 £49 £23
REIMS Balladins 1* A value-for-*money stopover* RO £29 £39 £13
Grand Hotel du Nord 2* Comfortable, centrally located on the Place d'Erlon RO £29 £39 £18
Quality Hotel 3* Modern, own restaurant, central BB £39 £49 £23
L'Assiette Champenoise 4* Beautiful mansion, indoor pool, sauna BB £49 £59 £37
ROUEN Clarine 2* Central, restaurant serves regional *dishes* RO £29 £39 £16
Climat Centre 2* Motel-style with its own bar and restaurant RO £29 £39 £16
Mercure Champs de Mars 3* Comfortable, ten minutes' walk from the historic centre RO £39 £49 £22
Hôtel de Dieppe 3* Well-*known, in the heart of the old quarter, opposite the railway station* RO £39 £49 £24
SENLIS Campanile 2* Motel-style, run by a husband and wife team RO £29 £39 £16
SOISSONS Campanile 2* *Motel-style, own restaurant, husband and wife team* RO £29 £39 £16
ST MALO Mercure 3* Overlooking the sea, excellent base for exploring the Breton coastline RO £29 £39 £19
ST OMER Les Frangins 2* Traditional, family-run, central RO £29 £39 £18
Le Bretagne 3* Modern, central, *gastronomic restaurant* RO £39 £49 £22
Château Tilques 4* *In extensive grounds*, 19th century château, an ideal retreat RO £39 £49 £27
ST PAUL DE VENCE Comfort Inn 3* Hilltop Provencal village with fine views as far as the sea BB £39 £49 £23
STRASBOURG Comfort Hotel Plaza 3* *Central, with own restaurant* BB £39 £49 £23
Ibis Les Halles 2* *Central and* with its own bar and restaurant BB £39 £49 £27
Holiday Inn City Centre 4* Indoor pool, sauna, solarium (payable), steamroom and fitness room RO £49 £59 £37
TORCY Clarine 3* Only two stops from Disneyland, children under 12 free when sharing with parents RO £29 £39 £18

GERMANY

BERLIN Hilton 5* Every *amenity from restaurants, bars* and a disco to indoor pool, sauna, solarium and squash court BB £59 £69 £57
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Centre 4* Close to the Kurfurstendamm, two restaurants, indoor pool solarium, fitness room RO £59 £69 £48
Holiday Inn Kurfurstendamm 4* Ideal base for exploring the *designer shops and excellent restaurants* RO £59 £69 £48
HAMBURG Ibis Altona 2* *Central, modern with a bar and restaurant* RO £39 £49 £28
MUNICH Holiday Inn South 4* *All bedrooms have balcony, ideal location for exploring Germany's cultural* capital RO £59 £69 £48

GREECE

ATHENS Hilton 5* *Views over to the Acropolis, three restaurants, bedrooms with balconies* RO £59 £69 £59

HUNGARY

BUDAPEST Ibis Volga 2* Close to the river and a few minutes from the centre by underground RO £29 £39 £15
Mercure Korona 3* Close to the National Museum and main sights, modern, restaurant and fitness centre BB £39 £49 £37
Hilton 5* *Built around an historic monument on Castle Hill*, next to the 13th century St Matthias church, three restaurants serve both Hungarian and international cuisine RO £49 £59 £38

Hotel Clery, Hesdin-L'Abbe: 3-star from £39 per person

ITALY

FLORENCE Holiday Inn 4* modern, *comfortable*, on the *outskirts, restaurant, fitness room* RO £49 £59 £46
Sofitel 4* Built in part of a 17th century palace, close to the centre BB £59 £69 £60
ROME Holiday Inn St Peters 4* Less than 3 Kms from the Vatican and St Peters and only 5 Kms from the city centre. *RO £59 £69 £56*
Sofitel 4* *Central with views of the Villa Borghese gardens* BB £59 £69 £57
Hilton 5* Set in 15 acres of Mediterranean gardens, with a free shuttle to the city centre RO £69 £79 £62
VENICE Sofitel 4* Stands in the Papadopoli Gardens, overlooking the *Tolentini Canal* and close to many of the sights BB £69 £79 £65

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM Tulip Inn Oosterpark 4* *New hotel close to the Oosterpark and the* Tropical Museum BB £49 £59 £25 No supplement for travel by Stena Line (Harwich-Hook of Holland) All clients staying at this hotel receive a voucher for free entry into a Diamond factory and a free canal trip
Cok Tourist Class 3* In a quiet, attractive residential area close to the Vondelpark, west of Amsterdam's city centre BB £49 £59 £25 *No supplement for travel by Stena Line (Harwich-Hook of Holland)*
Inntel Aemstel 4* Central, new, within walking distance of main attractions BB £59 £69 £35 No suppl. for travel by Stena Line (Harwich-Hook of Holland)
LEIDEN Holiday Inn 4* Excellent range of *leisure facilities* RO £49 £59 £44
ZAANDAM Inntel 4* North of Amsterdam, convenient for the charming windmill village of Zaanse Schans BB £49 £59 £25 No supplement for travel by Stena Line (Harwich-Hook of Holland)

PORTUGAL

LISBON Sofitel 4* On the Avenida da Liberdade, ten minutes walk from the old quarter. Piano bar and restaurant offering regional and interna*tional cuisine* RO £49 £59 £40

SPAIN

MADRID Best Western Hotel Cortezo 3* Within walking distance of many of the sights and with its own restaurant, bar *and solarium* RO £39 £49 £27
Best Western Hotel Arosa 4* On the Gran Via in the heart of Madrid RO £49 £59 £41
Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Centre 4* Excellent central location and with a bar, restaurant, fitness *room*, sauna and whirlpool RO £59 £69 £52

Hotel prices based upon ONE night sharing a twin/double room, including return Channel crossing *for completed travel during the period February 1 - March 26, 1997. NB — some of the hotels may be available outside the stated offer period, please call for details.*
CHILDREN — *Some hotels offer up to two FREE child places when sharing a room with two adults.* Please ask for further details at the time of booking.
KEY: RO — Room only. BB — Bed and Breakfast. All hotel categories are local ratings.
Car +4, Car +2 and Extra Night prices are per person as stated. Car +3 prices available on request.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR SHORT BREAK

Call EuroDrive Holidays on **0181-324 4000** (Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-5.30pm). Have your *credit card ready and quote The Times* Passport to Europe *to qualify for the special prices*. Then collect three differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and attach them to the voucher (which will appear throughout this week), add your personal reference number which you will be given when you make your holiday booking request. Token 1 appears below.

BOOKING A SHORT BREAK BY AIR
Contact Hamilton travel on **0171-344 3333** to make a separate provisional booking for your flight seats. Then contact EuroDrive on **0181-324 4000** to make a booking request for your chosen hotel, subject to availability. You will be contacted with an alternative *within 48 hours if* your chosen hotel *is not available. The total cost of your short break by air will consist of EuroDrive's hotel-only price (including £15 booking fee per party)* PLUS the cost of your flight(s) with Hamilton Travel and airport taxes. Remember to have your credit card ready and quote *The Times* Passport to Europe to qualify for the special prices.

INSURANCE
It is a condition of this offer that travellers have adequate insurance cover. EuroDrive offers special insurance rates: Cover for up to three days is £6.50 per adult, or only £8.50 for up to five days. Child rates (aged 4-15) are 50 per cent of adult rates and a special family policy (up to 2 adults + all children) is available at just £16.25 (three days), £21.25 (five days). Infants (0-3) are free. Motor Breakdown insurance can be provided at a cost of £22 (three days) or £26 (five days). *Full policy details and insurance prices for short breaks by air* are available on request.

THE TIMES
EuroDrive TRAVEL CLUB
SHORT BREAKS
TOKEN 1

EURODRIVE TERMS & CONDITIONS Offer prices are valid for completed travel by March 26, 1997. Please try to book at least 10 days prior to your intended departure. Standard *conditions* of EuroDrive Holidays apply to all bookings, together with the following special conditions. All bookings are *subject* to availability and restricted space. Alterations and amendments (up to 14 days prior to departure if possible), *are subject to a £30 amendment fee and will only be accepted in writing by recorded post. Cancellations made more* than 14 *days* before departure will be charged 50 per cent of the full price. Any made within 14 days of departure will be charged *100 per cent of the full price*. All Eurostar amendments will incur a 100 per cent cancellation charge. Insurance is strongly recommended. No refunds will be made on insurance premiums under any circumstances. You must hold a valid passport for travel to Europe. *Non-EC passport holders must* check visa requirements. In the case of operational disruption for any reason, Times Newspapers and EuroDrive will not be liable for any additional expenses incurred or any other form of compensation. For your peace of mind and financial security, EuroDrive is a fully bonded member of ABTA. Licence No: V473X.
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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,458.20	Allied Domecq†	429½	+11	6.9	13.0
319.40	Bulmer (HP)†	605	...	2.8	18.0
40.90	Burn Stewart	69	−2½	6.2	73.3
130.60	Glenmorangie A	960	−5	1.6	28.1
9,763.80	Grand Met†	464½	+4	4.3	15.0
8,217.90	Guinness	435½	−6½	4.4	13.5
478.50	Highland Distl	359	+13	2.9	17.3
258.70	Matthew Clark	283½	−2½	10.5	13.6
11.70	Merrydown W	107½	...	5.3	14.5
4,916.50	SA Breweries†	1669¾	+31¼	2.0	

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
12,395.00	ABN-AMRO	4087½	+59½	3.0	15.9
11,037.90	Abbey Ntl	784½	+22½	3.7	14.5
2,890.20	Allied Irish	429½	+18½	4.2	12.3
5,314.30	Aus New Z	382½	+1½	5.0	..
28,184.10	Bank America	6912½	+240¾	..	..
3,868.10	Bank Scotland	323½	−1½	2.8	11.9
17,944.80	Barclays	1164½	+21	3.0	12.7
2,837.50	Bk of Ireland	580	+29½	3.5	13.4
34,467.80	Citicorp	7121¼	+280		
4,723.40	Commerzbk	1318¾	+12½	3.5	..
21,333.90	Dai Ichi Kan Y	665¾	+9¾	0.7	
14,611.60	Deutsche Bk	3118¾	−46½	2.2	...
173.50	Espirito Santo	812½	+12½	4.2	11.3
19,062.80	Fuji Bank Y	858	−11	0.7	..
13,008.40	HSBC	1493½	+47½	3.2	14.1
26,050.10	HSBC HK	1454½	+47	3.2	13.8
457.90	Irish Perm	532½	+28	2.7	14.6
25,730.80	Lloyds TSB	480½	+17½	3.1	17.3
10,956.10	Nat Aust Bk	754	+5½	5.4	10.2
13,184.90	Nat West	771½	−6	4.3	11.0
4,689.60	Ryl Bk Scott	574	−15	4.1	12.7
7,578.90	Stand Chart	771	+42	1.9	15.0
16,061.10	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	..
6,777.80	Westpac	356½	+16½	3.7	11.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
7,474.60	Bass†	846½	−18½	3.7	16.7
18.50	Bk for the Bdr	66½	+5½	3.3	18.2
37.80	Burtonwood Brwt	181½	+2	3.9	16.3
277.40	City Centre Rest	143		2.0	26.9
2,138.40	Compass Gp	673½		1.6	26.4
61.50	Eldridge P 'A'†	290	+18½	2.3	17.8
65.10	Fuller Sm 'A'	475	+10	2.5	15.8
1,670.80	Greenalls Grp†	566	−5½	3.4	17.8
422.00	Greene King†	697½	+18½	2.9	17.2
30.70	Grosvenor Inns	218½	+50½	3.3	23.0
47.90	Groupe Chez Gar	258	+6	1.4	24.9
57.70	Hardy Hansart	288½	+6½	4.6	13.1
79.00	Hall J	2725		2.6	14.7
54.50	Inn Business	72	+5	1.8	34.0
328.80	Mansfield	352½	+1	2.2	16.2
276.00	Marston Thmp	305	−1½	3.1	11.3
186.20	Morland▼	576½	−1	2.8	15.2
47.40	My Kinda Town	188		2.0	18.4
5.18	Paramount	43½	−2		
375.10	PizzaExpress	571	−10½	0.6	44.0
31.90	Ransomes (H)	382½	+17½	1.7	..
307.80	Regent Inns	564	−2½	0.6	42.3
4,179.60	Scot & Newct	678½	−8	3.7	20.6
374.30	Vaux Group	264½	+9½	5.0	12.6
438.40	Wetherspoon JD	1132½	−25	1.0	28.9
3,720.70	Whitbread	764	−10½	3.7	15.5
451.90	Wolvrhmptn Dt	673½	−1	3.2	14.8
190.70	Yates Brost	458½	+2½	1.0	28.7
18.00	Young 'A'	620		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
6.93	AMF Inds	30	+4½		
73.80	Abbey†	190	+10	3.7	19.5
115.80	Allen†	292½	+7	3.0	17.9
210.30	Amec	103	+7½	3.6	17.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,895.70	Electrocomponents	446	−16½	2.0	27.0
125.30	Eurodis Elec	213½	+12	2.9	30.2
89.90	Eurodollar	142½	+11½	5.3	14.5
47.80	European Mtr	89		7.4	9.1
83.60	Evans Halshaw	260½		7.9	10.2
8.21	Fife Indmar	53	+5½	7.8	7.9
193.80	Finelist Gp	307½		2.1	22.3
32.40	Gardiner	30		3.7	12.0
21.70	Glenchewton	72	+2½	1.8	21.3
7.70	Gowrings	86½	...	4.0	14.7
26.10	Handel	97½		8.8	8.1
28.40	Harris (Philip)†	240	−5	4.8	14.8
191.90	Headlam	312½	−1	2.3	25.9
5.91	Holders Tech	151½		5.0	14.2
67.70	ISA Intl	213½	+5½	1.5	19.6
1,389.60	Inchcape	259	+1½	4.0	22.1
5.67	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
398.70	Kwik-Fit	226	+½	2.9	18.1
368.10	Lex Service	323½	+½	6.0	10.3
36.70	Linders	110	−6½	9.6	8.1
19.60	Metsys Gp	12		6.9	12.9
48.00	Middlesex	6	−½	1.6	9.2
19.90	Moldens	38	+½	0.8	..
33.20	Norbain†	316	−12½	3.2	8.8
55.40	Northamber▼	162½	+6	1.1	8.7
178.60	Parco	570½	+8	2.4	17.7
150.90	Pentagon	390	−13½	3.0	18.9
53.10	Perry Gp	207½		5.0	10.6
1,429.40	Premier Farnell	526½	−16¼	2.7	20.5
34.20	Quicks Group	147½		5.5	11.1
30.10	REA	330½		1.5	38.6
3.98	Reece	2½			
22.80	Ronson	25½	+3	7.4	8.8
5.54	Ross Gp	3½			
33.10	SEP Indl	38½	−½	6.1	9.6
17.20	Sitwe	66½	−8½	1.9	21.6
217.10	Time Products	400½	+8	3.4	16.4
29.50	UNIECO†	266	+11	2.3	19.1
198.70	Vardy (Reg)	347½	−2½	2.5	15.2
90.10	WF Elect	630	+65	2.7	22.7
35.50	Wilshaw†	38	+3	2.8	11.2
115.00	Wyko	165½	+4½	2.8	19.2
30.00	Young (H)†	135	+½	3.9	11.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
557.90	Anglogate	355	+17½	1.8	13.8
253.90	Ascot Hldgs	315		2.1	
15,586.80	Broken Hill	855¼	+2¼	2.8	30.0
10,386.50	BTR	258½	−4½	4.8	19.3
15,035.00	BAT	485	−10½	6.4	9.4
286.30	Bibby (J)†	132	−5	7.1	7.7
1,524.00	Bowthorpe Inv	57	+¼	8.1	9.6
880.90	Charter	759½	−2	4.6	10.8
1,724.80	Cookson	251½	+2½	4.2	13.4
27.10	Cosalt†	220½		5.8	10.7
232.50	DCC	387½	+12	3.0	11.4
139.50	Grampian Hldg	135	+7½	6.2	12.9
4,805.30	Hanson	92½	−½	2.0	4.6
823.10	Harrison Crsfld	129½	−4½	8.7	12.7
17,102.30	Hutch Whamp	473	−11½	1.6	26.3
2,128.30	Imperial Tobacco	408½	+20½	6.1	8.2
2,845.50	Jardine Math	368½	−12½	4.2	
1,041.50	Lonrho†	133	+4½	4.5	12.1
108.40	McLeod Russel	174½		4.8	14.2
354.70	Powell Duffryn	411½	−8	7.8	10.2
30.40	Rapier	130	+16½	7.9	11.3
193.10	Scholey	169½	−20	6.9	11.9
5,627.50	Swire Pacific	579½	−4½	2.0	23.6
583.40	TT Group	342½	+½	2.5	16.3
3,346.40	Tomkins†	280½	+1	4.6	14.0
40.30	Undaro†	207½	+10	8.8	..
124.40	Wardle Storeys	486	−1½	4.9	18.0
527.40	Wassall	318½	+8½	2.4	18.7
68.00	Whitecroft	158		4.0	12.5
1,898.60	Williams Hldg	324½	−9	5.6	14.5

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,739.50	Br Energy P/P	150½	−3	6.9	
1,329.30	East Midlands	670	+1	5.9	9.9
1,216.80	London Elect†	698½	+1½	7.4	10.6
3,561.20	National Grid†	208½	−4	6.7	8.3
6,042.90	National Power	489	−16½	5.9	9.5

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
56.10	Simon Eng	35	−3	2.3	13.0
82.00	Six Hundred	149½	+8½	4.0	2.8
2,380.50	Smiths Ind	780½	+12½	2.6	20.0
554.30	Spirax-Sarco	702½	−10	2.4	19.8
80.40	Stirling Indl†	297½	−3	3.7	15.0
2,658.10	TI	558	+19½	3.0	19.9
18.50	Tinsley (E)†	113½		6.5	11.8
179.90	Tomkins	108½	−1½	2.6	19.4
126.50	Triplex Lloyd†	192½	+2	4.5	10.9
58.70	Unicorn Intl	154		4.5	13.7
25.80	Utd Inds	57½	−1	4.9	9.4
902.40	Vickers	268½	+7	3.3	16.5
11.20	Victors Grp	8½			
327.40	Vitec	675	−16	2.0	12.6
304.90	Vosper Thorny	944	+15½	3.2	15.8
181.40	Wagon Indl†	329	−½	7.3	10.4
473.50	Weir	235	+5½	4.0	14.7
68.50	Wellington Hldg	256½		3.8	15.9
39.80	Wellmant†	27½	−½	8.3	6.0
17.20	Wescol	55	−½	2.3	21.1
131.00	Whitman	555	−18	2.8	22.7
7.20	Widney	59½	−1	7.7	17.2

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
100.20	Adwest	121	−9½	6.1	25.8
18.60	Airflow Stream	195	−1	5.1	8.4
189.90	Avon Rubber†	703½	−16½	3.5	13.6
309.40	BSG	104½	−1	3.9	16.3
43.50	Bostrom	257½	+2½	3.3	10.6
10.90	Brenstead	18½		7.6	39.7
108.20	First Tech	685	+1	1.7	28.2
3,542.40	GKN	1003½	+5	3.1	17.4
23,359.10	General Mtr	3287½		3.0	
380.80	Hardys	367½	−5	2.9	14.4
18,324.50	Honda Motor	1675¾	+38½	0.4	..
368.10	Laird	399½	−3	3.8	12.1
18.70	Lookers†	535	+20	0.2	50.7
2,868.40	LucasVarity	207	−6	0.0	..
329.80	Mayflower	136	−3½	1.9	38.3
39.50	Sytonet	182½	+1½	4.6	11.9
863.50	T & N	166	+2½	4.5	11.7
11.80	Toad	70	−7½		...
172.20	Tomkin Hldgs†	307½	..	3.4	15.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,306.50	AB Foods†	478½	+1½	2.5	15.7
128.20	Acatos & Hutch	281½	+2	4.4	38.4
308.70	Albert Fisher	43		10.9	10.5
25.80	Banks (S C)	279	−1	5.1	10.4
76.90	Barr (AG)	398½	+1½	2.6	..
19.10	Benzaro Crp	37½	+2½	0.8	9.6
874.20	Booker	358	+5½	8.4	14.1
13.10	Borthwick	22½	−1½	7.2	28.4
27.90	CPL Aromas	213	−3	3.0	10.7
4,700.00	Cadbury-Schw	478	−13½	4.3	15.8
17.00	Canadian Pizza	94	−3½	6.4	13.8
24.80	Carrs Milling	310½		4.2	10.0
52.70	Claremont	78½	−2	6.0	
33.30	Cranswick†	234½		5.1	13.7
238.40	Dairy Crest Group†	216½	−½	5.3	10.7
987.50	Dalgety	330½	−½	8.2	..
14.80	Daniels S	39½	−2	0.6	..
436.10	Devro	273½	−2½	3.6	27.0
85.30	Finlay (James)	85½	−1½	5.3	16.4
195.30	Geest	288	−1½	3.6	

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Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
1,983	Treas 7% 1997	100⁵⁄₃₂ †		6.97	6.17
3,700	Exch 10½% 1997	100²¹⁄₃₂	−⅛	10.48	6.15
5,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	101¹⁷⁄₃₂	−⅛	8.63	6.21
830	Exch 15% 1997	106¹⁄₃₂	−⅛	14.13	6.23
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	103⅛	−⅛	9.45	6.37
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.18	6.41
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	109⁵⁄₃₂	−⅛	12.83	6.51
935	Treas 15½% 1998	113²⁵⁄₃₂	−⅛	13.63	6.52
3,989	Exch 12% 1998	108²⁵⁄₃₂	−⅛	11.02	6.62
1,306	Treas 9½% 1999	105⅛	+⅛	9.04	6.72
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	110²³⁄₃₂	−⅛	11.06	6.74
7,252	Treas 10½% 1999	107¹⁹⁄₃₂	−⅛	9.74	6.67
6,958	Treas 6% 1999	98¹¹⁄₃₂ xd	+⅛	6.10	6.70
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	108⅝	...	9.45	6.84
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	105⅝	+⅛	8.51	6.89
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	103⁷⁄₁₆	+⅛	7.73	6.95
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	118⁵⁄₃₂	+⅛	11.00	6.95
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	110⅛	+½	9.07	7.04
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	99²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.02	7.06
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	111⅝	+⅛	8.74	7.19
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	104⁵⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.69	7.19
2,500	Treas 10% 2003	114⅛	+⅛	8.76	7.26
1,620	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	115²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	8.95	7.08
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	84¹⁵⁄₃₂	−⅛	4.15	6.07
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	112²¹⁄₃₂	+⅛	8.43	7.31
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	96²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	6.97	7.28
18,273	Treas 8½% 2005	107⅛	+⅛	7.93	7.37
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	112⅝	+⅛	8.42	7.37
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127⁵⁄₃₂	+½	9.80	7.28
11,700	Treas 7¾% 2006	100¹⁹⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.45	7.48
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	102⅝	+⅛	7.56	7.42
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	102²¹⁄₃₂	−⅛	7.82	7.33
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121¹¹⁄₁₆ †	+⅛	9.68	7.25
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	107²⁵⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.90	7.44
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	111²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	8.06	7.49
3,450	Treas 6% 2008	102²³⁄₃₂	−⅛	7.73	7.54
LONGS (over 15 years)					
4,750	Treas 8¾% 2010	99¹⁵⁄₁₆	+⅛	7.05	7.60
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	112²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	8.02	7.59
5,369	Treas 9% 2012	112²³⁄₃₂ xd	+⅛	7.99	7.60
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	82¹³⁄₃₂	+⅛	6.65	7.36
6,180	Treas 8% 2013	103⅝	+⅛	7.73	7.62
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	104¹⁵⁄₃₂	...	7.42	7.62
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	103²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.70	7.50
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	111⁵⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.87	7.65
9,000	Tr 8% 2021	104⁵⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.67	7.60
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	45¹³⁄₁₆	−⅛	7.71	...
475	Treas 2½%	31²³⁄₃₂	+⅛	7.84	...
359	Consols 4%	50²³⁄₃₂ xd	−⅛	7.89	...
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114²¹⁄₃₂	+⅛	...	2.00
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	186⅛	+⅛	2.60	3.20
2,300	Treas IL 2½% 2003	182²³⁄₃₂	+1	2.84	3.27
1,150	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	118¹⁵⁄₃₂	+⅛	2.91	3.39
2,250	Treas IL 2% 2006	192²¹⁄₃₂	+1⅛	3.08	3.38
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2009	172⅝	+1⅛	3.21	3.45
2,950	Treas IL 2½% 2011	178⅝	+1½	3.30	3.52
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2013	148⅛	+1½	3.36	3.55
3,400	Treas IL 2½% 2016	159⅝	+1⅛	3.41	3.59
3,350	Treas IL 2½% 2020	148⅝	+1⅛	3.48	3.63
3,250	Treas IL 2½% 2024	122⅝	+1⅛	3.50	3.63
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	121¹⁵⁄₃₂ xd	+1⅛	3.50	3.63

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
182.40	Rutland Tst	60¼	+2¼	2.6	18.0
18.60	SEC Group†	113	+3	5.3	10.1
42.90	S & U	417½	...	4.9	10.5
2,588.10	Schroders	1714	+90½	1.3	19.5
601.90	Schroders NV	1537½	+50	1.4	17.5
272.70	Singer & Fried	136	−½	3.9	10.0
6.01	Towry Law	39	...	...	...
3.34	Ide Hldgs	4			
22.30	Union	84	+3½	4.5	9.0
29.20	Walnut	340	...	4.8	15.8

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,491.70	Br Biotech	227½	+5	...	...
122.90	Cantab Pharms	782½	+30	...	...
404.90	Celltech	612½	−21	...	...
331.80	Chiroscience	325	−2½	...	...
267.00	Cortecs	206½	+4	...	...
35,442.30	Glaxo Well	999½	+50½	3.8	17.9
324.80	ML Laboratories	224	−½	...	58.8
1,003.30	Medeva	286½	−6	1.9	18.2
98.50	Peptide Thera	390½	+12	...	...
528.60	Scotia	686½	−11	...	...
138.20	Shire Pharms	226½		...	34.3
270.30	StayPharma	78	−½	...	...
24,543.80	SmithKline	892½	+28	2.1	32.3
76.50	Therp AnG Inc	357½	+4½	...	...
147.60	Vanguard	595	+27½	...	...
66.80	Xenova	288	+18	...	...
17,088.50	Zeneca	1804½	+119½	2.2	39.9

PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
29.80	AG Holdings	141	...	5.3	11.7
218.80	API†	750	−25	1.8	23.9
13.90	App Holo	52½	...	...	...
1,348.40	Arjo Wiggins	263½	−4½	5.7	...
18.80	Aspen Comm	121	−2½	6.5	9.5
43.30	Bath Press	27	...	2.8	11.9
187.50	Bemrose	442½	−1	4.2	14.7
162.50	Bingden	224½	−2	1.3	19.8
926.10	Bowater Inc	2394½	−21½	...	...
221.70	Bowmore Intl	310	−1½	1.1	24.8
269.00	Br Polythene	713½	...	3.0	18.3
2.86	Br Thornton	16½	−1	...	...
177.10	Bullhor Syp†	127½	...	3.1	18.9
942.50	Bunzl	210	...	3.6	13.0
74.10	Capital Inds	218½	−4	3.1	15.1
29.20	Cropper (James)	351½	...	1.5	12.9
1,302.10	De La Rue	580	−8½	5.2	14.8
6.46	Delyn Group▼	74½	...	3.4	14.8
51.40	Dolphin Pack	219½	...	3.3	17.9
30.10	Fairway Group	75	...	6.6	12.3
86.50	Ferguson Intl	211	+4	7.8	11.2
42.40	Findlay	140½	−7	3.1	10.4
68.60	Inveresk	130½	...	6.5	11.7
105.50	Jarvis Porter	226	−4½	3.8	15.3
398.50	Low & Bonar	401½	−5	4.2	11.2
186.40	MY Holdings	123	+5½	2.4	18.8
226.50	Macfarlane	181½	+2	2.7	15.2
16.50	Nobo Gp	93½	−1½	8.6	8.8
44.80	Photobition	429½	+13	2.0	21.7
83.80	Pyrat	175	+4½	5.2	17.1
38.30	Porter Chadburn	32½	...	1.0	11.9
1,654.10	REXAM	328	−7½	5.4	15.7
537.60	St Ives Gp	525½	+16	2.3	18.6
875.40	Sappi	555½	+5½	3.4	...
2.23	Sedl	3	...	...	...
74.50	Sidlaw†	108½	+2	2.3	...
884.10	Smith (David)†	280½	−3½	3.4	9.4
2,770.70	Smurfit (Jeff)†	169½	+4½	2.8	9.9
1.78	Sonic†	86½	...	4.3	8.9
58.50	Wace	86½	+1	8.5	8.7
310.70	Waddington	298½	−3	4.1	14.8
299.40	Watmough	435½	+6½	2.8	18.9
80.80	Wyndeham	231½	+1½	2.5	18.8

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,128.20	MFI	191	−4	3.9	18.5
14,817.70	Marks Spencer	493½	+16½	3.0	19.5
264.80	Menzies (John)	470	...	3.7	12.1
20.70	Merchant Retail	24½	−¼	...	20.6
224.30	Mirror Group	1267½	+17½	1.9	25.8
2,139.30	Next	572	+18	2.8	23.6
9.11	Oliver (G)	36	−¼	...	...
269.00	Ottakars Intl†	503	+1½	3.1	15.5
15.60	Paddiggle Fine	70½	...	5.6	...
11.80	QS Hldgs	30	−½	6.5	...
160.20	Reedrys	307½	−3	7.5	23.1
1,304.90	Sears	63½	−½	5.6	69.7
67.90	Signet Group	30	...	...	...
1,211.40	Smith WH	428½	−2	4.6	...
341.90	Sotheby's	1007½	−27½	2.0	...
1,226.20	Storehouse†	297½	+12½	3.2	19.4
77.30	Stylo	130	−2½	4.5	20.1
130.30	T & S Stores	181	...	5.0	11.6
818.70	Thorpt	180	−12½	6.8	17.0
87.10	Tie Rack	187	−½	1.9	18.6
6.04	Upton & South	3½	...	...	83.5
3,470.90	Vendome†	497½	+2½	2.6	18.4
33.40	WEW Group	28	...	...	...
128.10	Wickes	189½	+3	...	...
11.30	Wld of Leather	93½	...	2.3	...
92.20	Wyevale	237½	...	3.1	17.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,886.40	ADT	1360	+7½		
364.00	AEA Tech†	455	−12	2.1	21.0
178.80	Alpha Airpts	109½	−4	5.0	13.8
38.10	Alphameric	37½	−½	...	14.7
302.70	Atkins WS	329	−5½	2.4	23.9
38.70	BNB Res	177½	+11	4.8	9.6
113.00	BPP	438	+12½	3.5	28.3
48.80	BSM	175	...	5.1	11.6
394.50	BTG	451	...	1.1	...
10.90	Brooks Service	85	−½	4.7	13.6
258.30	Business Post	502½	+5	2.3	25.7
663.40	CMG	1095	−15	0.7	46.6
380.20	CRT Gpt	225½	+1	2.3	28.5
16.80	Caird Gp	621½	−6	0.6	4.8
329.10	Capita Group	563½	...	1.0	46.5
2.73	Chemart	6½	...	2.8	16.7
901.80	Chubb Sect	329	−1	3.4	15.6
316.90	Corp Services	214½	−3	2.6	28.1
27.30	Cordia Craig	58	+1½	4.8	18.0
51.40	DCS Gp	287½	+1	0.7	33.7
332.10	Davis Service	241	+4½	5.0	13.0
251.30	Delphi	872½	−17½	0.6	30.4
27.40	Dudley Jenkins†	208	−23½	2.4	19.3
13.40	EW Fact	73½	+7	2.8	11.2
20.80	El Data Prc	79½	−3	3.5	11.7
177.90	FI Group	680	−2	0.9	48.3
2,344.20	Hays	563½	+6	1.8	25.3
192.50	Hogg Robinson	218	−73	5.2	10.0
234.40	JBA Hldgs	687½	+½	0.7	41.1
138.40	Johnson Clean	279	+13	5.1	11.6
32.40	Kalamazoo	111½	+9	4.8	11.5
78.80	Kewill Syst	621		1.7	17.0
9.66	Laser-Scan	30	+2½	...	...
42.70	Lavendon	208½	+13	2.1	15.6
74.40	Leigh	112½	+1	4.4	...
565.30	Logica	688	−118	1.1	33.3
98.50	Lynx Hldgs†	85½	−½	2.3	17.8
53.40	MDIS	51	+5	2.9	...
60.60	MMT Comp	580½	...	1.3	25.4
52.20	MR Group	92½	+½	4.8	17.3
95.20	Macro 4	463½	−9	1.3	12.9
48.30	Menhaore Abbey	55½	+4½	1.3	...
189.40	Micro Focus	1055	−85	...	...
63.40	Micogen	160½	+12	6.3	...
926.30	Misys	1080½	−21½	1.3	22.9
124.50	MITIE Gp	101½	...	1.2	27.6
18.60	Nero Group†	31	...	6.0	7.8
29.40	Orbist	41	...	3.0	14.4
141.20	P & P	175	−4	2.3	15.7
292.30	Page (Michael)	470½	+15	1.6	19.3
212.50	Partly	500	−11	0.7	40.9
24.90	Pegasus	388	−1	1.9	26.0
13.60	Peterx	123½	−1½	2.0	...
77.40	Photo-Me	127½	+2½	5.0	15.7
11.10	Proudfoot	14	−1	...	3.5
29.50	RCO	220	...	8.6	24.3
28.00	RPS Group	147½	+5	3.1	14.2
16.80	Rentex	59½	−1	3.0	12.6
93.40	Real Time	265½	+26½	2.4	10.6

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BAA (Q3), Lebowa Platinum Mines, Media Business Group, Mid Wynd International, Potgietersrust Platinums, Rustenburg Platinum Holdings, TR Smaller Companies Investment Trust, US Smaller Companies Investment. **Finals:** European Assets Trust. **Economic statistics:** UK provisional M0 money supply (January), UK purchasing managers' index (January), UK Nationwide house price index (January), World Economic Forum in Davos, US construction spending (December), US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Games Workshop, Stoves. **Finals:** Gartmore British Income, St Andrews Trust. **Economic statistics:** UK Halifax house price index (January), UK housing starts and completions (December), UK CBI regional trends survey (January), World Economic Forum in Davos, Federal Open Market Committee meeting, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, API weekly oil supply statistics, President Clinton delivers State of the Union address.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Betacom, British Sky Broadcasting. **Finals:** Eurocamp, Gardiner Group, Shoprite Group. **Economic statistics:** UK monthly monetary policy meeting, Federal Open Market Committee meeting, US factory orders (December).

THURSDAY

Interims: British Telecom (Q3), Westminster Healthcare, Continental Assets, SKF. **Finals:** ICI, Crest Nicholson. **Economic statistics:** UK industrial manufacturing output (December), UK SMMT new car registrations (January), Bank of France T-bond auction, US weekly jobless claims.

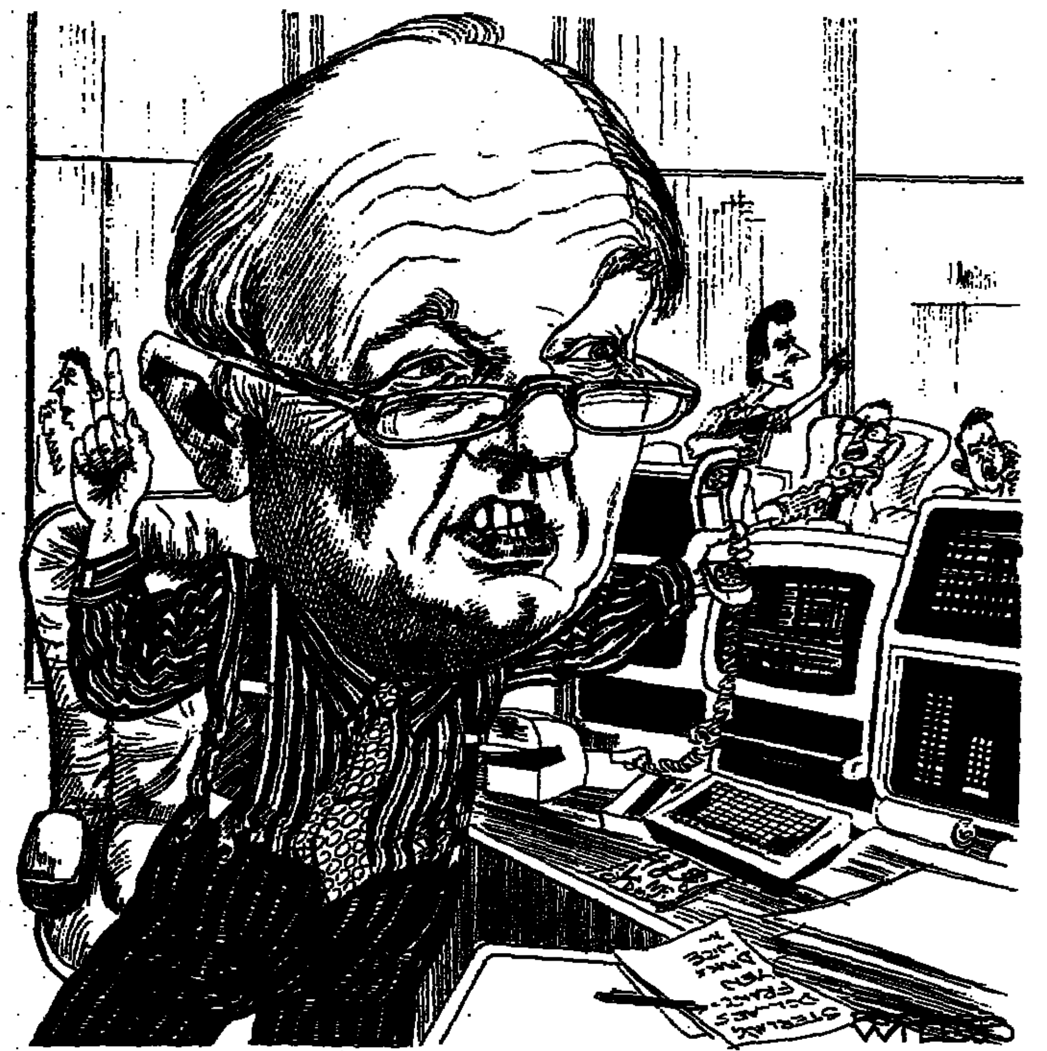
FRIDAY

Interims: Amicable Smaller Enterprises, Eldridge Pope, Heavitree Brewery, Murray European Investment. **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** UK CBI distributive trades survey (January).

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Industrial giant reaches low point



Sir Ronald Hampel is likely to announce a dip at ICI which is at the bottom of its trading cycle

ICI: Fourth-quarter results from Imperial Chemical Industries, the industrial conglomerate, on Thursday are expected to make fairly bleak reading and mark a low point in the group's trading cycle. According to NatWest Securities, pre-tax profits are set to fall 45 per cent from £193 million to £107 million. That gives an overall figure for the year of £605 million, compared with £951 million for the previous year.

The results will reflect a further deterioration for its materials division with acrylics, polyester film and polyurethanes all hit by rising costs and fluctuating exchange rates. Its performance will be significantly down on the third quarter.

The explosives division has suffered another difficult quarter with little benefit, as yet, percolating through from its restructuring programme. However, there is likely to have been a small improvement on the previous quarter in ICI's industrial division. Volume increases in several areas may have been offset by a further softening in the price of titanium dioxide, which has now slipped 20 per cent in the past year.

The paint division may have overcome seasonal weakness in the final quarter to record an encouraging result helped by a solid contribution from Bunge, lower costs and restructuring benefits. In spite of the downturn, brokers are pinning their hopes on a 7 per cent rise in the annual dividend to 32p.

BRITISH TELECOM: An encouraging rise in revenue of about 5 per cent to £3.8 billion will feature when the group unveils its third-quarter figures on Thursday. But this may be offset partly by an increase of almost 6 per cent in operating costs as BT continues to invest heavily in new areas both at home and overseas.

Pre-tax profits are likely to be £885 million compared with £829 million for the corresponding period, while operating profits grow 4 per cent to £970 million as the redundancy charge drops from £60 million to £40 million. Earnings per share are expected to increase 5 per cent from 8.7p to 9.1p.

Inland call volumes grew by 5 per cent in the year to September 1995, and by a further 7 per cent in the following year. Growth of 10 per cent was recorded in the second quarter with a further rise of 8 per cent envisaged in the third.

Analysts say the growth reflects a revival in economic activity, good marketing and new products.

Brokers have pencilled in total profits of £3.1 billion for the full year.

BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING: Last week the group linked with Granada Television and Carlton Television to make a joint bid for the right to launch digital terrestrial television in Britain.

On Wednesday, BSkyB — which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the subsidiary of The News Corporation that owns *The Times* — unveils half-year figures expected to show a sharp rise in both income and profits.

At the pre-tax level UBS, the broker, is looking for £116 million, up 9 per cent, while NatWest Securities has pencilled in £150.5 million, before the cost of the DFI investment in Germany, which has so far failed to live up to expectations. That compares with £106.3 million for the corresponding period.

Revenues are expected to have soared by 25 per cent to £580 million with subscriber numbers up sharply with the help of a major marketing programme by electrical retailers in the final quarter of 1996. But the rising cost of making programmes will have exerted pressure on operating margins which are thought to have shrunk from 32.7 per cent in the second half of 1996 to 29.7 per cent.

NatWest says earnings will have increased by about 40 per cent to almost 8p, while UBS is forecasting a modest increase of 9 per cent to 6.1p. Shareholders should be rewarded with a 20 per cent increase in the payout to 3p per share.

BAA GROUP: These will be the first set of figures published by the airport operator since the quinquennial review which imposed a price regime of RPI-3 per cent.

Due to be published today, they are expected to reveal a solid performance with pre-tax profits for the first nine months up from £361 million to £392 million and earnings almost 10 per cent higher at 28.7p. A 9 per cent increase in the dividend to 4.5p per share is envisaged.

Passenger volume in the third quarter rose 4 per cent overall, with retail sales per passenger thought to be 2 per cent higher. Sales growth is likely to continue as the group's heavy refurbishment programme at various terminals reaches completion.

Meanwhile, progress is being made with the planning proposal for Terminal 5 at Heathrow, which could be completed in 2003 at a cost of £1.5 billion.

GARDINER GROUP: The security equipment distributor is expected to have consolidated the solid 15 per cent profit growth recorded in the first half when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are likely to have grown 14 per cent overall from £3.76 million to £4.3 million with earnings showing a similar increase to 2.65p a share.

Gardiner's second-half performance is likely to have lived up to expectations in spite of a wobble during August when demand trailed off and margins fell below budget. Export business has continued to grow with solid performances from closed-circuit television, access and fire divisions.

A 12 per cent increase in the payout to almost 1p is forecast by brokers.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City awaits rate verdicts

CITY nerves will be jangling in the first half of this week as both the UK and US monetary committees meet to decide short-term interest rates. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will debate with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on Wednesday. Publication last week of minutes of their December meeting highlighted a growing gap between them over monetary policy. Mr George appears to favour a half-point rise in base rate. However, recent soft economic data and an impending election have led the markets to conclude that UK rates will not rise.

The US Federal Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday. Most economists expect rates to stay on hold. A decision to raise rates would cause Wall Street shares to fall heavily, with London markets following in their wake.

Mr Clarke and Mr George will have some new monetary data. M0, the measure of narrow money supply, is expected to show a slight rise on Monday. MMS International, the forecasting group, predicts that the annual rate will rise from 7.1 per cent to 7.3 per cent. Economists will study December industrial production figures, to be published on Thursday, for signs that the rise in sterling is beginning to bite. However, MMS says that manufacturing output should still rebound after the shock fall in November, forecasting a 1 per cent increase. On Friday, the CBI distributive trades survey will provide further evidence of how sterling's rise has hit industrial confidence.

The outlook for European monetary union should become clearer on Monday when the European Commission issues a report on the accounting rules that can be applied in order to meet the 3 per cent GDP Maastricht deficit ceiling. Markets will be looking to see whether temporary measures such as selling gold reserves and using privatisation receipts to reduce the deficit will be allowed.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Cadbury Schweppes, Jacobs Holdings, Firth Rixson, Meyer International. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Flextech, J Saville Gordon, Wyko, JJB Sports, Chelsfield. *The Observer*: Buy BSkyB. *Independent on Sunday*: Buy Eidos; Avoid Lancia Trust; Sell Willis Corron, Yorkshire Water. *Mail on Sunday*: Buy Card Clear, AorTech International; Avoid Laporte.

Zicor Mining placing subject to AIM listing

ZICOR MINING, a Canadian minerals exploration company, hopes to be quoted on London's Alternative Investment Market from February 11 (Graham Searjeant writes).

Ellis & Partners, the company's nominated broker, has arranged a placing of 4.7 million shares at 18p to raise about £850,000, conditional on the quotation. Grant Thorton, the accountant, is nominated adviser. Part of the proceeds may be used to buy a business trading in ore and concentrates. Zicor also wants to develop the non-operative Van Stone zinc mine, which is not economic at current zinc prices.

Zicor, whose president and chief executive is Anthony Rhatigan, is currently quoted on only the Vancouver stock exchange. It is thought to be the first Vancouver-listed company to be admitted to AIM.

GILT-EDGED

Demand for stocks is likely to increase just as the supply falls

The January data were truly astonishing. You would have to go back many years to find a month when every major economic statistic was so far adrift from expectations. As the data were weaker than expected, the "boom hype" that gathered such momentum in the second half of 1996 seemed to evaporate in a fortnight.

This was only one month's data, but the hype was justifiably dispelled. The market had priced in more buoyancy than existed in reality. The economy never was as strong as many seemed to believe: the latest figures for gross domestic product show growth of just 2½ per cent and inflation is now trending down towards 2½ per cent after the oil-inspired blip.

Expectations for interest rate increases by the summer, as expressed in markets, have fallen by some 40 basis points since the start of the year in response to the data. The weakness of the latest data creates such a degree of uncertainty about the pace of economic expansion that any policy change would be unwise. "Wait and see" is a policy stance even more suited to interest rates than to EMU!

The Governor of the Bank of England will surely moderate his enthusiasm for higher rates at this week's monetary meeting. He must accept that the tone of his recently published comments at the December meeting were wide of the mark, given the evidence from the Christmas shopping period and the weakness in the rest of the data.

The Bank will also attend the meeting in the full knowledge that the extra strength of sterling since the last quarterly inflation report will be reflected in lower forecasts in the next report, to be published only a week later.

Rates should be left on hold in February, and the Chancellor will surely come to that conclusion. Expectations of rises could be moderated further after the "no move" news and the inflation report, but the real scope for performance lies in the gilt market.

Prices of gilt-edged stocks have rallied in the past month on the back of the weak data, but still have further to go. Pricing in a more realistic assessment of the economy with lower growth, is part of the story, but the impetus for the price action will probably come from supply and demand news that will unfold in the weeks ahead.

> ❛It is a dangerous time to be short of gilts❜

The usual post-auction relief will be boosted by a growing realisation that the Government could end this financial year a little ahead on its funding. The volatility of the March PSBR figure makes the arithmetic precarious, but the chance of overfunding is greater than of underfunding.

The really good news will be in the funding remit for the year starting in April, to be released next month. Market players will meet the Bank of England over the next few weeks to discuss it.

As expectations grow firmer that funding guidelines will change in the year ahead, conventional stocks of medium and long-dated maturity should peform well. I expect to see the planned issuance of conventional gilts fall, with more index-linked bonds and floating rate notes being issued in their place.

Modifications to the guidelines will be driven by the desire to save money. Governments can switch between alternative methods of financing, just as individuals and companies do, and it makes sense for the UK Government to do so now. There is also a chance that the Government will start to issue bonds denominated in foreign currencies to finance the deficit. It certainly ought to.

The market impact could be dramatic. At the extreme, the issuance of medium and long-dated gilts could fall in the coming financial year, from about £22 billion under the current rule to no more than £12 billion to £15 billion.

Even under normal circumstances this would force down yields, but the trend will be enhanced by two already established gilt-positive flows: the increase in the investor base from opening up and simplifying the gilt market, and the steady but continuing reweighting of UK pension funds from equities to bonds.

There will be a new and important impetus from an influx of cash from Japanese funds, which need to boost the yield on their investments, and from European fund managers who fear losing profits made from the convergence of rates in 1996. Add the growing belief among traditional investors in the UK's policy framework and the prospect of low inflation, and there is a recipe for a healthy increase in demand — just as supply is expected to fall.

It is a dangerous time to be short of gilts.

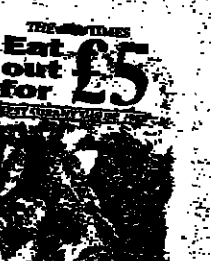
SIMON BRISCOE
Nikko Europe

Racal seeks partner for telecoms drive

RACAL, the defence electronics and communications group, yesterday confirmed that it was seeking a partner to help to expand its new telecoms business (Eric Reguly writes).

Racal wants to sell about half of the business, known as Racal Network Services, to a big telecoms group in exchange for cash and the opportunity to develop an international presence. A spokesman for Racal would not comment on reports that it had held discussions with GTE, the American local telephone company, which wants to enter the European market.

Racal Network Services has turnover of about £300 million a year and has been awarded an overseas licence by the Government. Its largest division is British Rail Telecommunications, bought by Racal for £133 million in 1995.



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CHANGING TIMES

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

SPEKBOOM
(b) The purslane-tree (*Portulacaria Afra*) of South Africa. Cumming, *A Hunter's Life in South Africa*, 1850: "One vast jungle of dwarfish evergreen shrubs and bushes, amongst which the *spekboom* was predominant."

SUG
(c) A species of fish-louse parasitic on the trout. Walton, *Angler*, 1653: "Many of them [sc. trout] have sticking to them Sugs or Trout lice, which is a kind of a worm, in shape like a *Clove* or a *Pin* with a big head."

SONSE
(b) Abundance, plentifulness, plenty; prosperity. Scottish and Irish, from the Gaelic *sonas* good fortune, prosperity. "*Something of good size and value would be said to have some sonse with it.*"

SWIMMERET
(a) An abdominal limb or appendage of a crustacean, adapted for swimming. A *swimming-foot or pleopod*. An adaption of *swimmer*. Huxley, *Crayfish*, 1880: "Attached to the sternal side of every ring of the abdomen of the female there is a pair of limbs, called swimmerets."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6027 (-0.0260)
German mark
2.6233 (-0.0269)
Exchange index
94.4 (-0.9)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2847.1 (+4.0)
FTSE 100
4275.8 (+57.0)
New York Dow Jones
6813.09 (+116.61)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18330.01 (+640.65)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	19.51	18.01
Belgium Fr	57.25	52.95
Canada $	2.274	2.114
Cyprus Cyp£	0.824	0.769
Denmark Kr	10.62	9.82
Finland Mkk	8.41	7.76
France Fr	9.28	8.63
Germany Dm	2.79	2.58
Greece Dr	431	406
Hong Kong $	13.10	12.10
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel Shk	5.62	4.97
Italy Lira	2698	2543
Japan Yen	210.60	194.60
Malta	0.643	0.568
Netherlds Gld	3.106	2.876
New Zealand $	2.48	2.26
Norway Kr	11.00	10.20
Portugal Esc	275.00	216.50
S Africa Rd	7.91	7.11
Spain Pta	229.50	216.50
Sweden Kr	12.26	11.46
Switzerland Fr	2.42	2.24
Turkey Lira	193420	181420
USA $	1.707	1.577

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

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Anite faces challenge to £1 sale of subsidiary

By Paul Durman

ANITE, the troubled data communications company formerly known as Cray Electronics, is being challenged to justify the proposed sale of a business with a £20 million turnover to Cray's former chairman for £1.

Craywatch, a small shareholder group, thinks that terms of the sale of Case Technology UK are too generous to Roger Holland, the group's chairman until it ran into serious problems in 1995. Even after the sale, which is to be approved by Anite's shareholders on Friday, Anite will provide premises rent free and £4 million of working capital.

Anite will face another challenge at an industrial tribunal in London today when Ray Piggott, the sacked chief executive of Cray Communications, demands back the job from which he was dismissed in December 1994.

Case Technology makes network communications devices, and was part of the group's communications division. Sales, which had averaged about £40 million, have halved, and the business is making big losses. However, Case has net assets of £15.5 million and Anite's sale contract acknowledges the possibility of a revitalised business being sold for £8 million.

Anite is also selling Case Technology Denmark to Intel, the computer chip group, for about £45 million. The Case Technology UK sale is conditional on the Denmark deal.

Tony Scutt, of Craywatch, said: "The UK deal seems to be a remarkably potentially lucrative deal for Roger Holland." Mr Holland is to work with Case's existing directors. Mr Scutt said: "I don't know why they can't run the company from within [Anite] without buying it out and running it under Holland. Is this the best deal for Holland rather than being a reasonable deal for shareholders?"

Until his departure after heavy losses, Mr Holland had worked closely with Jon Richards, who remains Anite chief executive.

The industrial tribunal has asked Anite to produce documents that Mr Piggott claims are relevant to his case. Mr Piggott, a respected computer industry manager, claims that he was a scapegoat for Cray's problems. In 1995, Mr Holland accused Mr Piggott of devoting too much time to product development and failing to manage an attempted rapid expansion of Cray Communications. Cray/Anite has written off millions of pounds in worthless stock, and committed more money to developing new products.

Given Mr Piggott's seniority and his relations with Anite, reinstatement seems unlikely. The tribunal could only award him compensation of about £12,500. Mr Fairweather said that Mr Piggott may pursue his case through the courts.

Mr Scutt said the full story of why Cray Communications had lurched from £20 million of profits into enormous losses had never been explained.

Mr Richards and Anite did not respond to a request for comment.

Wim Duisenberg, front runner for the ECB post, credited with proposing the 'Fed formula'

European central bank may be modelled on Fed

By Oliver August

THE planned European central bank, which will manage the euro, is likely to be modelled on America's Federal Reserve.

If accepted at a meeting between the German and French finance ministers this month, the plan for a Federal Reserve clone would lay to rest a Franco-German row about political control over the ECB.

The compromise formula is believed to have been suggested by Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch central bank chief. Mr Duisenberg is a front runner for the top job at the European central bank, with only France opposing his appointment.

The "Fed formula" would appease French central bankers and politicians who have demanded some political influence over the institution which will set interest rates in the euro zone.

The Federal Reserve is independent of government but accountable to the US Congress. Unlike the Bundesbank, Fed chiefs regularly appear at public hearings. The Bundesbank has so far opposed any political influence over the ECB, which would be located in Frankfurt. Bundesbank officials have invoked clauses in the Maastricht treaty which guarantee its independence.

Mr Duisenberg has privately proposed the Fed formula as a compromise he hopes will be acceptable to France. He is keen to win favours with the French Government ahead of a Franco-German summit.

Herve de Charette, France's Foreign Minister, insisted last week that no decision had yet been taken on who will head the European central bank. But EU officials claimed that 14 out of the 15 member states support Mr Duisenberg.

Speculation that Germany would agree to a French appointment in a private deal, possibly recalling Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission, has angered the Dutch. Hans van Mierlo, Foreign Minister, said: "It would be a scandal". It is thought this prompted Mr Duisenberg to make his proposal.

Babcock wins China contract

Babcock International has won a $70 million petrochemical plant contract in China. The new plant, to be commissioned in 2000, will use US technology to produce chemicals used in making polyester.

Labour worry

One in three consumers feels that a Labour election victory might harm investment prospects in the unit trust sector, according to a survey by Gavin Anderson and Company financial consultants. Twenty-three per cent expect a fall in the UK stock market over the next year, up from 10 per cent.

Esprit offer

Esprit Telecom Group, the European telecommunications company, is to make a public US and international offering of 5.4 million American Depositary Shares and has applied for them to be quoted on Nasdaq and Easdaq.

Hearts hope

Heart of Midlothian Football Club has announced plans for a London Stock Exchange listing, with an institutional placing of £5 million to £6 million of new ordinary shares.

Power demand for gas 'set to outstrip coal'

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

FURTHER gloom for the coal industry will be delivered today in forecasts predicting soaring demand for gas in electricity generation.

Cambridge Econometrics' predictions for energy demands to 2010 see gas meeting 60 per cent of power generation's fuel requirements, compared with 20 per cent now and 1 per cent in 1990. Coal is expected to fall to below 20 per cent of requirements, as against 48 per cent now and 70 per cent in 1990.

The report, one of the most comprehensive forecasts for the energy industry, also points to a diminishing demand outside of electricity generation.

Increased use of gas is pivotal to the UK's ability to stabilise its carbon dioxide emissions by the millennium, the research says, as is the policy of raising the rate of road fuel duty by 5 per cent above inflation.

AIM poised to hit record high

THE Alternative Investment Market is poised reach a record high this week. A week of strong trading lifted the FT-SE AIM index 2.5 per cent to 1123.30 — just 17.1 points short of the high reached last May.

Peter Ashworth, AIM analyst at Albert E Sharp, attributed the surge to the performance of Ramco, Trocadero and Freepages, the market's weightiest stocks. Shares of Ramco, the hydrocarbon consultancy, surged 16 per cent over the week to 1205p as it overtook Trocadero to become the largest company on the AIM.

Freepages, whose free business directory inquiry service rivals BT's Talking Pages, won two major contracts over the week. It is to spend £14 million setting up a similar service in The Netherlands this year. It has also won a licence to supply Libertel, a Dutch mobile phone operator, with an exclusive service.

Infobank, an Internet-based software catalogue service, is to join AIM valued at about £20 million. Its users "test-drive" software packages before ordering and complete the whole transaction on an electronic basis. Five of its directors, who set up the company four years ago, will share a £9 million stake.

The bull market in bio-tech stocks has attracted Bioscience Innovation Centre. It plans to raise £6 million to provide management for bio-tech firms and fuel laboratory expansion. It is expected to join next month.

Intelligent Environments, which sells software to develop Websites, has expanded into America with the acquisition of a Chigaco-based company for £1.62 million.

FRASER NELSON

1996/97 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/–	Yld %	P/E
150½	117½	11.70	AFA Systems	117½	– 5	...	...
153½	109	21.70	AMCO Corp	152½	+ 1	4.1	11.4
422½	57	80.80	AND Int Pub	377½	+147½	...	...
107½	18	5.53	Abacus Recruit	100½	– 2	...	28.7
15	14½		Abacus Rec P/P	14½	...	...	...
117½	99½	16.50	Access Plus	117½	...	3.7	15.5
161	59½	13.40	Active Imaging	73½	+ 6½	...	...
210	123	29.50	A de Gruchy	200	...	3.9	15.0
20¾	7¼	11.60	African Gold	11¼	+ ¼	...	23.9
117½	66	51.20	Airtech	112½	...	...	...
41	13	14.00	Albemarle & Bd	37	+ 3¼	0.8	20.2
58	29½	5.27	Alizyme	30½	...	...	...
24	3¼	2.77	Alpha Omikron	3¼	– ¼	...	...
510	380	48.80	Am St Brewery	510	...	4.8	11.5
1085	885	8.43	Am St Cv Pf	1085	...	7.4	...
121	48	52.90	Antonov	72½	– 1	...	...
100½	100	10.20	Archer Dedicated	100	...	1.0	55.6
9	7	1.78	Arlco Props	7½	...	...	55.4
81	29½	29.80	Ashurst	34½	...	...	...
200	68	29.70	Ask Central	185	+ 5	...	...
64½	55	1.16	Athelney Trust	64½	...	...	...
149½	123	40.80	BATM Adv Comms	131½	...	...	...
68	55½	10.70	Barbican Health	55½	– 1	...	...
8	6½	10.60	Bannsford	7	+ ½	...	...
4¼	2¼	6.13	Beechcroft	3¼	+ ½	...	10.7
4¼	2½	5.27	Beaufort	2¾	...	...	28.2
99½	40	6.32	Bilston Battrs	71	+ ½	...	17.7
150	140	1.01	Bowness Leis	147½	...	3.8	9.4
70	70	0.34	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
70	41	9.80	Brancote Hldgs	58½	+ 6	...	...
107	87	3.88	Br Bloodstock	92	...	2.0	26.3
535	240	64.00	Brockbank	522½	...	1.8	16.9
167½	116	17.80	CA Coutts Hldgs	167½	...	0.6	22.5
110	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	...
140½	116	1.12	CCI Hldgs	140½	...	...	7.7
213	95	5.29	Cafe Inns	185	...	1.6	14.2
75	55	8.57	Caledonian Tst	70	...	...	13.7
43	27½	31.20	Card Clear	36	+ 4	...	...
108	85½	9.07	Carisbrooke Ship	89½	...	1.4	8.5
72	48	2.95	Cassidy Bros	54	– 8	7.0	13.7
57½	41	2.51	Cavendish W	57½	...	3.3	27.5
21	16	5.48	Celebrated Group	16½	...	2.0	14.6
£550	£550	116.00	Celtic	£400	+500	...	..
£450	£450		Celtic Pf Shs	£330	...	...	...
124	96½	14.60	CI Comms(TV)	108½	+ 5	3.2	12.8
9	5¾	9.00	Charterhouse	9	+ 1¼	...	20.1
86	37½	4.30	Chartwell Intl	37½	...	...	...
155¼	53	231.00	Chelsea Village	154	+ 35½	...	...
215	110	11.10	Chemical Design	170	...	...	27.1
202½	173	22.00	Circle Comms	202½	+ 2½	...	15.5
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	72.7
35	2½	1.05	ClubPartners	2½	...	...	...
542½	485	12.70	Com de Pt Fin	527½	...	2.5	9.9
21	15	7.06	Concurrent Tech	15	– 1	...	...
100	85	0.24	Conc Tech A Pf	95	...	...	...
100	85	0.19	Conc Tech B Pf	95	...	...	...
125	115	0.84	Conc Tech Rd Pf	125	...	...	...
225	215	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	...
44	36½	8.25	Container Tst	37½	– ½	6.7	9.5
4¾	2½	4.68	Corporate Exec	3	...	...	15.1
171½	58	29.60	Country Gdns	160½	+ 5½	1.1	16.5
120½	68	4.31	Cntry Gdns Pf	117½	...	5.7	...
109	22½	8.08	Cross Intl	22½	...	...	...
345	190	4.40	Crown Eye	275	+ 5	5.7	6.7
63	17	8.16	Crown Products	17½	...	...	...
625	152	50.20	DBS Management	625	+ 37½	2.9	13.7
36	19½	0.94	Dalkeith Inns	19½	– 1	...	...
89½	60½	4.85	David Glass	89½	+ 2	7.0	10.2
125½	120½	4.41	Dams TB Desk	125½	+ 4	...	9.7
2525	860	141.00	Dawson Hldgs	2525	+ 12½	2.0	19.1
17	10½	6.22	Deep Corp	13½	– ½	1.9	12.0
174½	155½	10.90	Deep Sea Leisure	174½	...	..	23.3
5	2½	3.88	Denmaster	3	...	...	19.9
460	305	57.90	Dicom	455	+ 12½	0.2	20.4
111	78	19.90	Digital Animatn	94½	...	...	...
87½	50½	10.60	Dotatek	57½	+ 6½	..	...
4½	2½	2.49	Drings of Bath	3¼	...	...	15.9
137	38½	8.63	Easynet	58½	...	...	...
445	148	82.00	Elec Retail Sys	390	+ 85	...	...
200	33½	28.30	Electrophoretics	40	– 3½	...	...
116	13	4.09	Epic Multimedia	21	– 25	...	...
55	55	14.20	Epicure Netwks	55	...	...	...
316	190	7.08	Eurasia Mining	190	..	...	...
125	120	5.62	Euro Sales Fn	125	...	...	...
220	118	18.40	Eve Group	167½	...	1.1	...
475	325	8.77	Fastake	345	...	...	...
85½	41	3.28	Fayrewood	82½	– 3	0.8	12.3
150½	102½	52.60	Fibernet	141½	– 3½	...	...
77½	57½	3.27	Fieldens	65½	...	2.9	8.6
265	75	5.54	Firal Pubs	235	...	...	6.9
183	8½	2.74	First Intnr	13½	...	...	...
139½	90½	38.10	Fitness First	138½	+ 29	...	...
255	188	5.89	Flomerics	230	...	1.4	...
343	253	8.73	Floral St	290	+ 17½	0.6	...
45	32½	6.53	FNB Hldgs	32½	...	...	...
193	119½	12.70	Formscan	120½	– 1	2.3	13.2
94½	79½	8.30	Fountain Forest	94½	...	...	14.6
47	14	166.10	Freepages	43¼	– ¼	...	...
164½	93	9.81	Fudong Homes	163½	+ 11	2.1	11.6
130½	122½	14.20	Future Int Telep	127½	...	...	...
296	179½	18.28	GB Railways	207½	– 53½	...	...
23	13	4.67	Gabriel Trust	13	– 2	...	45.8
63	52½	16.30	Gall Thomson Env	52½	– 3	...	9.8
14¾	8¼	42.90	Gander Hldgs	14¾	+ 1	...	...
109½	77½	85.70	Garland W&B	98½	– 1	0.4	8.9
113½	53½	80.50	Geo Int Media	80½	– 2	...	...
29¾	12	18.10	Gold Mines Sard	14	...	...	...
13½	7	4.28	Gold Mns Sard Wts	8	..	...	...
122½	114½	41.50	Goshawk Insce	122½	...	...	...
22	6	2.89	Greenhills	9½	..	...	...
15¾	13½	1.72	Grosvenor Ltd	14¾	...	...	...
150	145	33.10	Guiton	148½	...	3.8	12.5
290	169	29.90	HIT Entertain	267½	– 5	...	...
41	7	0.76	Hanson	7½	...	...	...
175	150	12.50	Hardy Undwtg	170	...	...	...
68	53	2.63	Hat Pin	59½	+ 4	5.7	7.9
275	155	6.22	Hawtree	275	...	2.6	17.0
255	180	9.90	Hawtree A	245	...	2.9	15.1
130	48	4.28	Hercules Prop	130	...	...	7.1
175	87½	11.50	Highams Sys	130	– 15	...	19.0
138	115	149.00	Hiscox	121	...	2.6	...
80	65	1.16	Horlingham	75	...	...	...
119½	104½	7.10	Hydro-Dynamic	105½	...	...	...
297	138	24.20	IES	159	– 8½	1.3	...
96	65	19.80	Ind Brit Health	77½	+ 4	...	...
116	55½	8.73	Indpt Energy	66½	– 2	...	...
134	105	21.20	Indpt Radio	118½	...	...	...
88	42½	8.30	Inner Workings	42½	– 5	...	...
88	63	16.90	Intelligent Env	75½	...	...	54.4
72½	43½	12.40	Interact Tech	45	– 3½	..	...
177	139½	48.50	Interactiv Tele	139½	...	...	...
812½	503	33.20	Intl Greetings	792½	+100	2.8	14.7
177½	108	42.70	IOC Intl	174½	+ 4	...	...
142½	122½	12.60	Jardinere Int	142½	...	...	...
103	62½	2.55	Jasmin	62½	– 3	...	10.3
335	280	24.60	Jennings Bros	334	+ 14	2.6	22.9
4	3¼	5.53	John Lewis	4	..	...	21.4
74¼	49½	9.46	Jordec	58½	+ 3	...	...
5½	2	4.61	Just Group	3	...	...	...
3	2	0.25	Just Group Wts	2	...	...	...
125	82½	40.40	KS Biomedix	96	+ 2½	...	...
52½	47½	5.69	Kern River	49½	...	...	...
160	100½	37.70	La Senza	112½	...	...	...
180	137	26.40	Lancashire En	145	...	3.9	...
365	210	22.48	Lawrence	365	+ 5	2.5	18.8
3750	2950	58.80	Lawrie Group	3150	...	2.8	9.6
357	255	59.20	Le Riches Strs	357	+ 1	5.8	15.0
17	12	0.65	Life Numbers	13	...	...	...
9	2	0.13	Life Numbrs Wts	4	...	...	...
105½	65	34.20	Loftus Road	92½	+ 2	...	...
16½	11¼	3.43	Lon & Edin Publ	11¼	...	2.8	8.5
95	85	0.86	London Asia Pc	85	...	...	42.8
70	55	1.75	London Town	70	...	...	...
420	192½	71.00	Lorien Grp	415	...	1.1	34.8
4¾	3	5.19	Lotteryking	3	– ¼	...	38.5
1¾	1	0.17	Lotteryking Wts	1	...	...	...
135	55	9.68	MMS Petroleum	80	– 6½	...	...
315	147½	29.10	MTL Inst	180	+ 5	3.8	10.1
160	17½	11.20	Magnum Power	24½	+ 8	...	...
290½	187½	35.20	Majestic Wine	276½	– 13	...	12.0
25	9½	7.77	Maaz & O'sons	13	– 1	3.1	24.8
125	105	2.40	Matrix Hlthcare	105	...	8.3	...
12¾	10½	3.78	Mears Group	10½	...	2.4	...
117	88½	53.90	Megalomedia	92½	...	...	51.9
104	79	0.92	Megalomedia Wts	83½	...	...	...
113	67½	4.71	Mallett	67½	...	4.8	12.4
475	22½	36.00	Memory Corp	59½	...	...	...
55	10½	7.35	Meteor Tech	11	– 2	...	...
43	10	0.19	Meteor Tech Wts	10	– 2	...	...
25	18	6.13	Metrodome	25	+ 4	...	...
93½	82½	4.97	Mondas	82½	...	...	...
345	158	26.20	Moorepay	345	+ 15	2.1	...
200	67½	7.12	Montecastel	94	+ 1	...	19.6
215	147½	41.60	Mulberry Group	210	+ 1½	0.4	32.8
89	15½	4.61	MultiMedia	16	...	...	31.7
19	17	1.32	NECA	18	...	...	...
340	275	20.50	NWF Grp	275	– 7	4.9	14.0
210	175	14.10	Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.3	8.2
72½	53	1.48	Nationwide Res Prps	70½	– 2	1.8	31.2
380	300	7.70	Neill Clerk	300	...	3.3	10.8
62½	45½	8.46	Netcall	60½	+ 10	...	...
242	118	74.00	Network Tech	230	+ 11½	0.2	32.8
80½	63	1.54	Nethouses	79½	– 1	...	50.2
78	30½	5.10	Nikr Patim	44½	+ 2	...	...
8	7½	0.12	Nikr Patim Wts	7½	...	...	...
119½	110½	45.80	Nursing Home	115½	...	4.0	28.0
222	85½	38.50	Old English Pub	217½	+ 2½	0.8	68.3
136	84	15.10	Omnicare	127½	+ 8	1.1	19.3
75	7½	2.22	Omnimedia	9	– 1	...	...
102½	70½	3.10	On Line	77½	+ 3	...	...
72½	42½	35.40	Oxford Biomedica	55½	...	...	...
123	66	20.30	Loox	87½	...	...	...
3¼	1	32.70	Pacific Media	2½	...	...	...
140½	17¼	28.70	Pan Andean Res	65	+ 8½	...	...
220	180	5.26	Park Ests(Liv)	220	...	4.5	16.0
21	8½	5.19	Pembertons	18¾	+ ¼	...	...
106	47½	8.14	Personal No Co	52½	– 2	...	...
337½	100	46.20	Philippine Gd	122½	– 2½	...	...
70½	52½	13.30	Pilot Tech	59½	+ 2	...	18.6
184	107	24.00	Polymasc Pharms	120	+ 6¼	...	...
4	2½	6.01	Portleon Foods	2¾	+ ¼	...	...
2	1½	0.33	Portleon Fds Wts	1½	...	...	...
800	400	10.80	Preston Nth E	545	+ 5	...	...
105	100½	16.40	Primary Hlth Pr	102½	...	...	...
590	151	102.50	Prism Rail	470	– 75	...	...
1210	979	247.90	Ramco Egy	1205	+165	0.1	...
82½	32	6.97	Raphael Zrn	77½	...	3.2	...
102½	94½	16.60	Recycling Servs	102½	...	3.9	..
140	43	8.62	Reflec	113½	– 3	...	...
6	4¼	1.24	Revelation Pic	4¼	...	...	4.8
18½	15	11.50	Ricoman Insce	17½	...	...	...
99½	63	4.19	Romlec	80½	...	2.9	18.9
4½	2	2.78	Rushmere Wynne	2	...	...	...
1¼	0¾	0.07	Rush Wyn Wts	0¾	...	...	...
165	151	17.90	SCI Ent	153½	+ 1	...	...
126	31	3.19	SCS Satellite	31	...	...	...
75	34½	7.91	SEA Multimedia	35	– 2½	...	...
69½	62½	6.57	Sanctuary Music	69½	...	...	...
31	5½	0.88	Scotswood Inds	9½	...	6.6	9.8
56¾	23	6.89	Scott Pickford	54½	– 2	2.1	19.6
68	28	14.30	Scott Pride	45½	– 2	...	...
320	270	15.40	Scrollers	320	...	5.1	15.4
76	64	14.10	Selector	72	...	...	...
60	22½	1.60	Self Sealing	27½	...	...	...
155½	132½	7.47	Shalborne	155½	+ 1	3.2	12.7
118	69½	4.16	Shelton (M)	78½	+ 1	6.8	9.5
218½	164	26.50	Sinclair Montrs	218½	+ 10	...	...
5	2¼	8.19	Ska Bus Serv	3	...	1.1	...
1½	1	0.19	Ska Bus Wts	1	...	...	...
3¾	3¼	22.30	Snakeboard	3¼	...	...	...
91	83	5.28	Solid State Sp	84½	...	4.1	14.1
49	27	3.43	Soundtracs	34	+ ½	3.0	...
685	520	164.80	Southern News	683½	...	3.2	19.9
79¾	50	12.90	Southern Vectis	87½	+ 2	3.5	15.6
297½	173½	23.20	Stallware	200	+ 20	...	58.4
615	255	101.30	Stanford Rook	525	...	...	...
207	75	11.40	Stentor	161½	+ 1	...	...
486	122	53.80	Surrey Fr Inns	485	+ 25	0.6	33.5
135	125	13.30	Sutton Harbour	133½	...	1.1	18.6
136	17½	2.55	Syst Integ Rsch	19	+ 1½	...	...
34½	6	4.05	TDS Circuits	19¾	...	...	23.8
138	81	13.20	Theo Fennell	82½	– 4	...	21.2
15	7¼	18.90	Thomas Potts	10½	...	0.6	...
56	30	2.29	Tom Hoskins	30	– 1½	...	...
915	375	26.70	TRACKER Netwk	505	+100	...	...
185	85	22.60	Tradepoint Fel	105	...	...	...
180	160	6.10	Trinity Care	167	...	3.7	12.0
170	165		Trinity Care Pf	170	...	...	...
79½	43½	216.20	Trocadero	43½	– 9	...	...
242½	143	33.80	UND	241½	+ 11	2.2	28.7
42	40	3.65	Univent	40	...	...	18.4
438	357½	6.36	Utd Auctions	357½	...	2.8	...
268	147¼	27.70	VDC	268	+ 3	2.4	17.2
22¾	13½	55.20	Versailles Grp	22	...	1.1	20.9
62	52	99.50	Victory Corp	52½	...	...	...
650	130	4.88	Vienna	182½	– 30	...	...
428	232	6.44	Voss Net	240	...	...	...
72	46	18.60	Waterfall	72	+ 12	...	10.0
27	13	5.09	Watermark	27	...	...	7.8
15	7	2.76	Wedderburn Secs	10	+ ¼	...	...
5	1¼	0.05	Wdd Secs Wts	1½	...	...	...
8¼	6	7.90	Weeks Group	6	...	2.7	10.1
130	110	4.25	West 175 Entsr	110	...	...	...
£280	£200	17.20	West Bromwich	£235	...	...	...
19	12	8.58	Western Selectn	12½	...	...	99.9
6	3½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	...	...	...
67½	26	7.33	Westmont Engy	67½	+ 3	...	...
95	87½	3.61	Whitecross	87½	...	...	...
214½	135½	33.30	Willard Chelsea	210	+ 1½	1.4	29.8
75	45½	7.15	Winchester M Md	61½	+ 7	...	...
145	100	3.79	Wynnstay Props	120	...	4.8	17.2
13½	9	5.88	Xavier Comp	11¼	+ ½	...	...
179½	137½	6.93	Yeoman	137½	– 2	...	...
340	170	26.70	Zergo	290	...	..	72.8

Panther on the prowl over Exmoor

By Gavin Lumsden

Perloff: performance pledge

THE latest twist in the increasingly ill-tempered struggle for control of Exmoor Dual, a hapless small investment trust, unfolds today at an extraordinary general meeting at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City.

Panther Securities, a property investment company holding 29.9 per cent of the trust, wants to take over Exmoor Dual's management. Andrew Perloff, Panther director, believes they could do a better job since the performance has been dismal. Launched in 1989 to invest in the split capital investment trust sector, Exmoor has raised its net asset value by just 3.3 per cent in seven years, compared to 69 per cent for the FT-SE 100 index.

Split capital investment trusts offer income shares for investors who need an income, and capital shares and zero dividend preference shares for those seeking growth.

Adding to Exmoor's many problems was the confusion over its zero dividend preference shares. Investors were attracted by a yield of 13 per cent. Last year it emerged that they stand to receive only 12.2 per cent, the result not of poor performance but a printing error in the original prospectus.

This means that the zero holders will receive £2 million less than they expected at wind-up of the trust.

However, Peter Gray, chairman of Exmoor Dual, is fighting back. He says that Panther will turn the trust into a property fund, so stripping personal equity plan (Pep) investors of their tax advantage. He believes that investors, faced with this threat, will accept any poor offer that Panther may make. So strongly does he feel about the matter that he is proposing to liquidate the trust if supported.

Mr Perloff says that he has reserved money to pay off the zeros and to offer better deals than the board has mustered.

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EVERY FRIDAY 81

Bonus package for Energy Group directors reduced

By Jason Nissé and Christine Buckley

PRESSURE from institutional investors has reduced the bonus package of the directors of The Energy Group, Hanson's soon to be demerged coal and electricity business.

The Energy Group had proposed to give directors share options and a long-term incentive plan. But after meeting leading investors it was decided this would be far too generous.

As it is Derek Bonham, the executive chaiman, could be in line for a £565,000 bonus and John Devaney, who runs Eastern, the electricity business, a £437,500 bonus in three years' time if the company meets its performance targets. Mr Daveney enjoyed a £1.3 million windfall from his share options when Hanson took over Eastern Electricity in 1995.

Even the scaled-down package is more generous than many institutions believe should be offered. One leading investor said that he was unhappy with the plan on two counts — it pays out 30 per cent of the bonus if the company performs at only the average of the FT-SE 100 companies, and the scheme is for three years, not five as the institution would like.

Another institution said it agreed to the plan in spite of being unhappy with much of its content, considering it "a little over-generous".

Shareholders will not have a chance to approve the plan before it is put in place. There will be no separate vote on the long-term incentive plan at the extraordinary meeting on February 24 to approve the demerger. Lazard Brothers, which is advising on the demerger, said this had been approved by the Stock Exchange in spite of the Exchange having required new schemes to go to a vote since last September.

The Energy Group said it began negotiations with potential institutional investors several months ago to avert possible controversy. It said it set out a range of incentive plan options in these talks.

A spokesman said: "During the planning stages, the management sought guidance from potential institutional shareholders about a variety of incentive schemes in order to select the one which was to be the most suitable."

The company has set up three separate bonus programmes. A short-term scheme gives up to half a director's salary each year, the longer term scheme gives up to 75 per cent, and an interim plan gives up to 25 per cent.

Devaney: takeover windfall

Tesco considers giving its name to French chain

By Sarah Cunningham

RESIDENTS of northern France may soon become as used to the sight of a Tesco superstore looming on the horizon as their British counterparts.

The company is considering renaming larger branches of its 100-strong Catteau chain of French supermarkets as Tesco, according to David Reid, finance director and deputy chairman.

So far, the only fully fledged branch of Tesco in France is in Calais, where it caters for duty-saving British day-trippers.

Since September, Tesco has been selling a basic range of around 200 of its own-label products in Catteau supermarkets, which trade as Hyper Cedico. Cedico and Cedimarché, and it may decide to increase the Tesco range available in those stores, Mr Reid said.

The moves towards a closer integration of Catteau suggest that, contrary to industry speculation, Tesco is unlikely to sell the French business — at least in the short term.

Several City analysts believe that Tesco ought to look for a buyer for Catteau, which it acquired in 1992 and which, in the face of stiff competition in northern France, has consistently failed to perform to expectations.

One analyst commented: "This is a conflicting signal to our view that there is no point in Tesco being there."

Another analyst said: "I think they will sell it, but not for a while. It may be sold under the new management." Terry Leahy, the current deputy managing director, is set to become chief executive of Tesco from next month.

Tesco finds itself in an awkward position in France because it has not joined in the widespread consolidation in the industry triggered by tightened government regulations on building new stores.

Last year, Tesco considered making a joint bid for Ducks de France, the operator of the Mammouth hypermarkets. Docks was looking for a white knight to rescue it from a bid by Auchan. Mr Reid said that Tesco backed out because there was not enough time to put a deal together before the Auchan deal went through.

Other acquisitions by Tesco in France are considered unlikely in the short term because valuations there have risen steeply. Tesco's other foreign foray — into central Europe, where it has invested in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary — has met with more success.

Rand Araskog is not expected to use the aggressive tactic of bidding for Hilton Hotels

BAe to push Eurofighter as Saudi custom is lost

By Oliver August

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to make a strong marketing push for the Eurofighter in the Middle East after suffering a new setback when Saudi Arabia, a main export target for the all-purpose jet, decided to purchase 100 American F-16s in a $30 billion deal.

The main focus of the marketing drive will be the Abu Dhabi air show next month. BAe, which is building the Eurofighter in a consortium with three European partners, will lobby Arab leaders to buy the Eurofighter because of its superior performance and in spite of its higher price compared with the F-16.

However, the push will be too late to persuade Prince Sultan, the Saudi Defence Minister, who will sign the F-16 deal in Washington this month. The US Government will place an order with Lockheed Martin on behalf of the Saudis and sell the aircraft on.

Military experts say that the Eurofighter and the F-16 are not directly comparable. The 20-year-old F-16 is a daytime interceptor, while the Eurofighter is an all-purpose jet. However, BAe marketing literature lists the F-16 as one of Eurofighter's five main competitors.

Saudi Arabia has always been identified as the best Eurofighter export market. About 10,000 UK jobs depend on the Eurofighter production.

BAe suffered another setback along with the Saudi F-16 move, when the United Arab Emirates excluded the Eurofighter from its selection list for a new combat jet. The UAE, which host the Abu Dhabi air show, "down-selected" to two planes, the French Rafale and the F-15, built by McDonnell Douglas. Both planes feature on BAe's list of Eurofighter competitors.

The F-16, one of the most admired fighter jets, has been sold to Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and Turkey, but never before to Saudi Arabia. The US air force used the aircraft in the Gulf War, while the Saudis flew BAe-built Tornado F-3s.

The Saudis are known to be disappointed with the F-3, which was hardly used in the war. Industry insiders say this is one reason why the Saudis have bought American, rather than British. Critics allege that the F-3 had wrongly wired missile systems and developed cracks on the fuselage.

An industry insider said the Saudis' F-16 deal may mark a strategic change. Rather than buy a few very sophisticated aircraft, such as the Eurofighter, the Saudis may have opted for "quantity over quality".

Small firms outdo big businesses

SMALL firms are outperforming larger ones in terms of orders and jobs — but the stronger pound is hitting small business exports too (Philip Bassett writes).

In its latest small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) trends report, the CBI says that over the past four months, SMEs have enjoyed their highest increase in orders for a year — though at a net balance of 9 per cent of companies reporting higher orders, the figure is less than half the expected level indicated by the survey.

But employment growth is increasing in SMEs, the survey shows, with a higher than expected total of 7 per cent recording a rise in employment. Output is also still increasing, though at a net balance of 11 per cent of companies registering a rise, it is going up at a lower rate than was expected.

ITT may sell assets to fight off Hilton

From Richard Thomson in New York

THE board of ITT, the hotel and gambling group, will consider selling more than $3 billion of assets when it meets tomorrow to agree on a strategy to fight off a $10.4 billion bid by Hilton Hotels. The assets include a stake in Madison Square Garden, two sports teams, cable and television networks.

Hilton has said that it would sell the assets to concentrate on the core hotel and gambling operations of ITT. These include the Sheraton chain of hotels and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

Many analysts believe that Rand Araskog, ITT's chairman, will pre-empt Hilton's plan as part of his defence against the bid, rather than using the aggressive tactic of bidding for Hilton. The sales would virtually eliminate ITT's debt.

ITT's 50 per cent stake in MSG is worth between $600 million and $1 billion. It includes the Knicks, a basketball team, and the Rangers ice hockey team, both based there. ITT and Cablevision, its partner, paid $1.08 billion for MSG two years ago. Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, is believed to be one potential buyer who would like to have MSG to aid sports coverage on the Fox television channel.

Other assets that may be put on the block include WBIS, a sports television channel jointly owned with Dow Jones and worth about $100 million. ITT also has a 5 per cent stake in Alcatel Alsthom, the French telephone company, worth around $750 million, Educational Services, worth $570 million, and World Directories, a global yellow pages with a value of about $1 billion.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Star players in the frame

TONY FRAHER is treating Singer & Friedlander to a series of football paintings. After the launch of the merchant bank's Football Fund, the soccer-loving chief executive of S&F Investment Funds plans to splash out £7,500 on a set of six watercolours. Entitled *Italia 90*, the gaudy collection of airbrush paintings was originally commissioned by Kellogg for the 1990 Football World Cup. Norman Mackenzie, a Scottish artist, won the International Advertising Association Award for the set, featuring star players from six European teams. "Being Irish I have a free choice of which team hangs in my office," says Fraher.

Shuttle business

PETER BIRCH, the energetic chief executive of Abbey National, had amply demonstrated his personal commitment to Scotland even before he fired his first salvo at Scottish Amicable. Since the Abbey acquired Scottish Mutual in 1992 he has attended 53 of a possible 55 board meetings. "I've kept that shuttle service in business," he says.

Family footsteps

ANDREW COOK, the self-confessed autocrat who is trying to thwart Triplex Lloyd's bid for William Cook, is merely following old family values in his style of running the group. One senior City investment manager, responsible as a youngster for a substantial investment in the company, recalls a routine visit to Cook's father and predecessor as chairman Andrew McTurk Cook. Cook senior introduced two forbidding figures either side of him as his lawyers, before asking the City slickers what they wished to say.

Thin cat

CEDRIC BROWN is back in business. The scapegoated former British Gas chief executive has agreed to chair IntelliHome, a two-year-old small but ambitious Edinburgh company that has devised a home energy automation system that claims to save up to 40 per cent on bills. Jack McLaughlin, who joined Charles McGillivray-Davidson, an infotech expert, to set up the company, impressed Brown so much that the man who became the epitome of the fat cat is giving his services free.

Bye to Bambi

VENISON will be off the menu from today at Gladwins, the Minster Court restaurant recently voted the City's favourite by *Square Meal* guides — replaced by lamb. The decision by patron-chef Peter Gladwin comes after manager Paul Weaver's encounter with a City Corporation deer in Epping Forest. Weaver swerved to avoid the beast and wrote off his rather modest Ford.

Touché

RIGHT-THINKING economists' suspicions over the loyalty of the self-consciously alternative, co-operative Cambridge Political Economy Society have been confirmed by news that publication of *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, their organ, has been taken over by Oxford University Press. Thereby Oxford marginally redresses a greater grievance. *The Economic Journal*, Britain's pre-eminent bible for economics academics, is formally run by the Royal Economic Society, but has always been controlled by Cambridge, to the chagrin of lesser seats of the dismal science.

FINDING a benefactor for the new money gallery at the British Museum hasn't been easy. Bearing in mind HSBC's £1.7 million donation to fund the gallery for its first five years, director Robert Anderson ought to have taken more time before he divulged the contents of his wallet. "All I have is a boring Barclaycard," he sighed.

MORAG PRESTON

Desmond plans City airport hotel

By Jon Ashworth

DERMOT DESMOND, the Irish investor, is considering plans for a 200-bed, four-star hotel at London City airport in east London. Partners are being sought for the complex, which would extend over the passenger drop-off zone to join with the airport terminal.

The project is part of the upgrading of London City, which has struggled for recognition since it opened ten years ago. Mr Desmond, who bought the airport from John Mowlem for £23.5 million in October 1995, has approved a wide-ranging refurbishment, including a new look for the terminal, and improved facilities.

Desmond: upgrading

Mr Desmond led the consortium that recently bought Sandy Lane in Barbados from Granada for £38 million. His latest hotel project promises a boon to amenity-starved Docklands, and follows the announcement of a much larger scheme at Canary Wharf. Ong Beng Seng, the Singaporean property and leisure tycoon, has joined with the Canary Wharf consortium to create a £300 million hotel, leisure, and residential development on an 11-acre site.

Richard Gooding, the airport's managing director, said there had been clear demand for such a hotel from business travellers. He said: "A lot of people like to use the facility of a hotel, if even for a few hours. We are looking at something with a lot of meeting rooms and short-term offices. It would be integrated into the terminal so that you could just check out of your hotel and check in for your flight, all in the same transaction."

Mr Gooding said joining with a partner was crucial to the success of the hotel project. He said: "To do it on our own would be madness, because we don't know enough about that business."

London City handled nearly 730,000 passengers in 1996, and is expected to see the figure pass a million this year. Some 13 airlines currently serve 20 European destinations, including Frankfurt, Stockholm and Paris.

The hotel project is one of a raft of developments taking shape at the Royal Docks in east London. Norton Healthcare, the US pharmaceuticals group, is building its European headquarters nearby, and there are plans to create London's biggest exhibition and conference centre. Deloitte & Touche is assessing the feasibility of a £90 million national aquarium.

THE TIMES
TOMORROW
TRAVEL
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ITF
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FOOTBALL
[illegible]
ARTS
Richard Cork reviews the National Gallery's exhibition of Thomas Gainsborough's early work
http://www.the-times.co.uk
CHANGING TIMES

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Philip Bassett looks at a controversial Brussels-inspired analysis of Britain's labour market

A study that pierces the heart of Tory posturing over jobs

Brussels will fire its latest broadside against Britain today from a windowless room on the fourth floor of a dull office block in central London.

Peter Robinson, an academic at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics, will outline to policymakers the findings of a new study by the European Commission on the politically contentious issue of Britain's jobs performance.

How accurate is the Commission's description of the UK labour market, given Conservative suspicions that the Commission has an agenda on jobs that runs counter to the labour market deregulation pursued by the Government since it was first elected in 1979?

The report is one of a series of studies which Brussels has commissioned on the labour markets of all its member states. Using independent academics who, like Dr Robinson, have a proven track record in labour market analysis in their own country, the Commission's employment and social affairs directorate will deploy the 15 individual country studies to build up a detailed portrayal of the labour market across Europe as a whole.

The study, first disclosed in *The Times* last December, details every aspect of the UK labour market — its job patterns, institutions, governing legislation, overall policies and related issues, including education and the tax and benefits system.

Among its principal findings are:

☐ *Britain can sustain even lower* unemployment. The Commission says that the sharp rise in employment in the UK since 1993 is a product of supply-side reforms and macroeconomic policy. It suggests, as a "reasonably optimistic" assessment, that a continuation of such policy will see "unemployment in the UK fall on a sustainable basis to around 5 per cent to 6 per cent of the workforce" — half the 1993 rate, making Britain likely to be the only member state to achieve this European Union target.

At the same time, the Commission argues that the fall in unemployment is not particularly the result of greater labour market flexibility. However, it does attribute the better jobs record to changing employer attitudes in that employers no longer believe that recessions will be shortlived — so no longer hoard their labour, but get rid of employees quickly when they need to, and then hire people more quickly when a recovery arrives.

☐ The Commission largely dismisses the value of flexibility — firstly, as an idea that is so imprecise as to be almost without meaning; and secondly, in practice, since it says that the UK already had a less regulated labour market than most European countries when the Conservatives came to power in 1979, and that "it is by no means obvious" that all policy since then has been in the direction of deregulation and greater flexibility.

Temporary and part-time employment trends have not accelerated in reality, and there is little evidence to sustain the idea of a significant decline in permanent employment. EU directives in particular have meant that there has been no overall shift to greater deregulation in terms of individual employment rights.

☐ Greater wage inequality is one clear "unambiguous" trend in the UK's jobs market, with the decline in unionisation in Britain probably accounting for about a fifth of the wider distribution of wage rates.

☐ *Unsurprisingly, the Commission* is sceptical about the Government's claim that the EU social chapter would be dangerous for Britain. It does concede, however, that the European working time directive would have a "disproportionate" effect in Britain because Britain has the highest average working hours in the EU and significant unpaid holiday entitlements.

☐ The Commission does not back Labour's plan for a national minimum wage, but says that there is "no evidence" that the rag-bag of minimum wage provisions scrapped by the Conservatives were associated with increases in unemployment. "If anything", it argues that "there was a positive relationship between employment and minimum wages".

☐ The Commission's study concludes, controversially, that there is a "good case for cautiously reversing some of the changes with respect to employment protection legislation and minimum wage regulation, given the evidence that the regimes which existed in 1979 had no significant adverse impact on employment".

Government ministers will regard this as a direct attack on the heart of the Conservatives' achievement, since the Government's step-by-step employment law changes are widely seen by Conservatives as their most significant success.

The Commission will argue today that its analysis of jobs and the labour market in Britain since 1979 is a fair and accurate reflection of the employment changes and picture in the United Kingdom now. It is illustrative of how sensitive the jobs issue is in the run-up to the election that such an analysis will be politically controversial.

But as the election draws closer, and Britain's economic performance moves to the centre of the electoral stage — particularly when mixed with the heady combination of Brussels and the European Union — the Commission's study will be a political football that both parties will wish to put into play.

Confidence can't hide cracks in Santer's window on the world

Discord will ensue if people are tricked into donning the straitjacket of a single currency, says **Janet Bush**

Europe's great single currency project was billed as a topic of key importance at the Davos meeting of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. It turned out to be a sideshow, and a somewhat risible one at that. The leading members of Europe's political and economic elite look increasingly isolated in a world economy that is rampantly competitive, dominated by the private sector and totally committed to the raw dynamism of the market.

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, was introduced by the Forum with some fanfare as Mr Europe. Like many a colleague at the centre of current continental European politics, he was notable for his lack of self doubt. He said that the single currency is a fact of life, its credibility now established, the process of monetary union irreversible. He claimed that the euro would become an alternative reserve currency to the dollar. He boasted that monetary union would confer on Europe its proper status as a global superpower. "I am not Pangloss," he said. "I am looking at the empirical evidence."

Dismayingly for his colleagues in Brussels, his claims were greeted with giggles in this audience of world businessmen. A disparate range of alternative voices, speaking on the same platform and questioning Mr Santer's bold certainties, seemed to inhabit the real world, one far removed from the parallel universe of the President of the Commission.

Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic, politely scorned Mr Santer's global ambitions. "I am not sure that I want that. Is it necessary to express our target this way? I want to be strong, but I don't need to be powerful," he said. George Soros called for a Congress of Europe to re-engage the Continent's populations in a project that he said was increasingly losing their interest and intensifying a feeling of insecurity and fear. Even Britain's own Chancellor of the Exchequer, seen at home as a stubbornly committed European, reserved some disdain for his continental colleagues' reliance on the single currency as a panacea for economic ills.

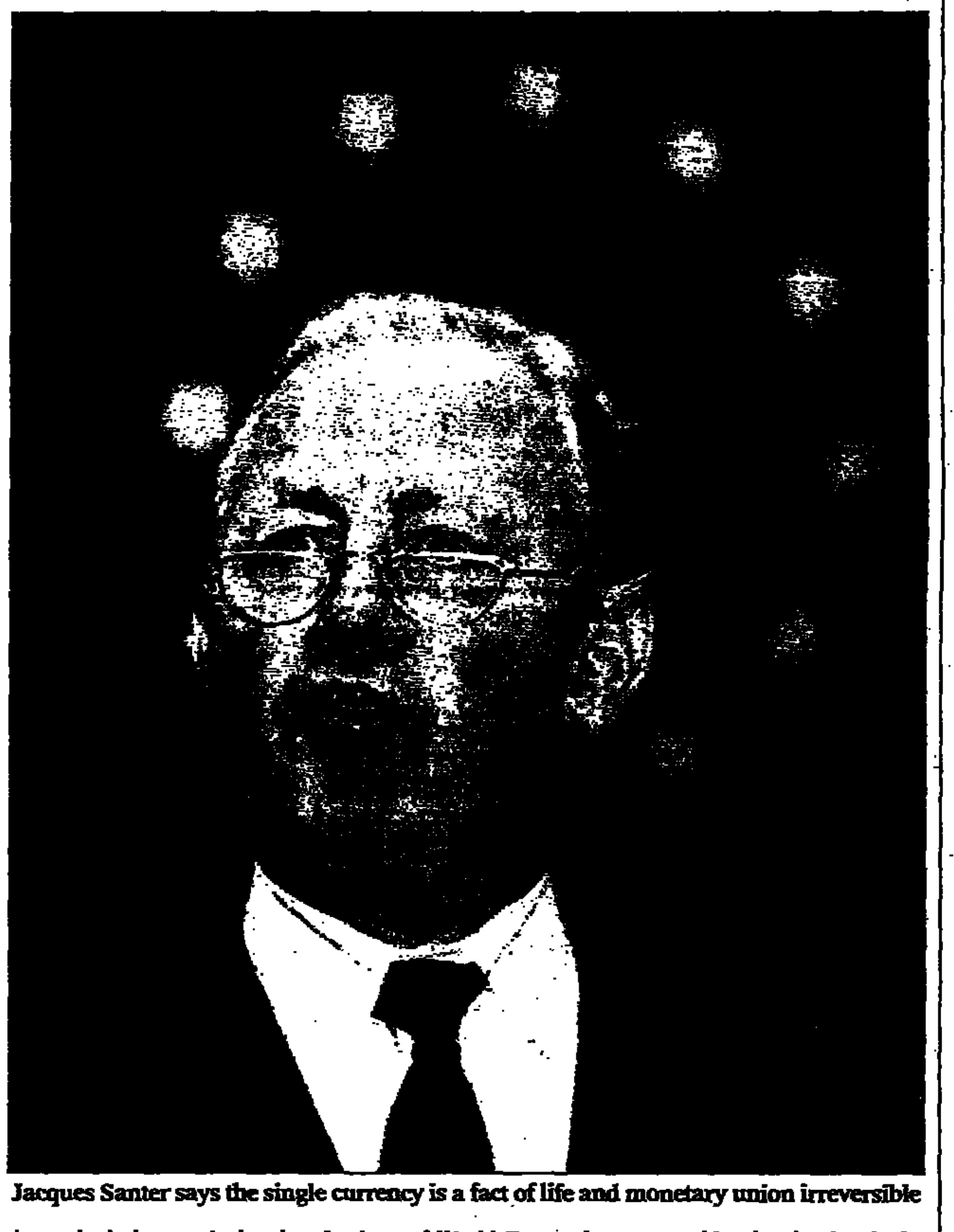
The scepticism about the euro project on parade in Davos owes much to Europe's palpable economic difficulties. EU members' underperformance on growth, their mass unemployment and what is clearly still a deeply ambiguous attitude towards tackling the expensive and anticompetitive rigidities that riddle its corporate governance, labour markets and social security systems all came under attack. Aware of the overwhelming ideological pressure ranged against the cosseted European model, euro enthusiasts all pleaded their commitment to greater flexibility and deregulation, but, at the same time, championed gradualism and talked of social solidarity.

There are two key flaws in the Santer view of the world. The first is that, although traditional arguments about reinforcing the single market are still aired, the single currency is not, primarily, seen as a good in itself. Rather, it is seen as a voluntary straitjacket to force Europe into structural change. Only by having monetary and fiscal policy, the two great arms of economic management, tied behind its back, will Europe undertake the painful transition to true competitiveness. The chill winds of global competition are not enough in themselves, it seems, to force governments to act.

This dishonesty promises more social discord. People are being asked to accept a big cut in their living standards and financial security, but their political leaders are not explaining the sacrifice in terms of surviving in the global jungle. Instead, they are allowing all the blame to be pinned on the single currency. No wonder that the project does not have the momentum of collective popular will.

The other great failing of the single currency project is that it is motivated by politics not economics, a fact which has long aroused suspicion in Britain. In Brussels, *en route* to Davos, senior Eurocrats accused British Eurosceptics of lack of courage and an outdated obsession with nation state sovereignty. They ascribed the lack of euro fever in Britain to "hatred" towards Europe, refusing to admit that there is room for doubt that the single currency might work in economic terms.

One senior official acknowledged that the attempt to unite the currencies of 15 disparate and independent economies had never been tried before,



Jacques Santer says the single currency is a fact of life and monetary union irreversible

that nobody knew whether it would be a success, but that it was, in any case, Europe's destiny to plunge into the unknown. "It had better bloody well work," he said.

Any nagging doubts are being kept strictly hidden as Europe's leaders devote themselves to the overriding political imperative of meeting the Maastricht treaty timetable and getting the project underway on January 1, 1999. In Davos, Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, spoke with theological certainty. "I have a saying which is as true as anything written in the Bible," he said. "The convergence criteria rule the timetable."

Central bankers admitted no earthly doubts about the risks of political pressure as Europe struggles with ever-rising unemployment. Horst Siebert, president of the Kiel Institute of World Economics in Germany, suggested that "another 800,000 on the unemployment register might be the wings of the butterfly which starts the avalanche" of political and social revolt against monetary union. He suggested that this "noble project" could not succeed when there was no consensus on what constitutes the essence of an independent central bank.

Germany, dominated by the memories of the hyperinflation of the 1930s and 50 years of Bundesbank-inspired stability since, wanted true independence for the European Central Bank. France, Herr Siebert contended, has a dramatically different understanding of such things. It still sees monetary matters as political. The fine array of European central banking talent gathered in Davos brooked no such doubts. "Independence," one said quite simply, "is the law". Where does Britain stand in all of this? In private, after a decade of radical structural reform, Britain was the quiet toast of businessmen in Davos. They duly noted that Britain has achieved five years of solid, non-inflationary recovery accompanied by sharp falls in unemployment. The contrast with Europe's economic anaemia and lengthening dole queues was acknowledged. But Britain was given no public credit by European politicians and central bankers.

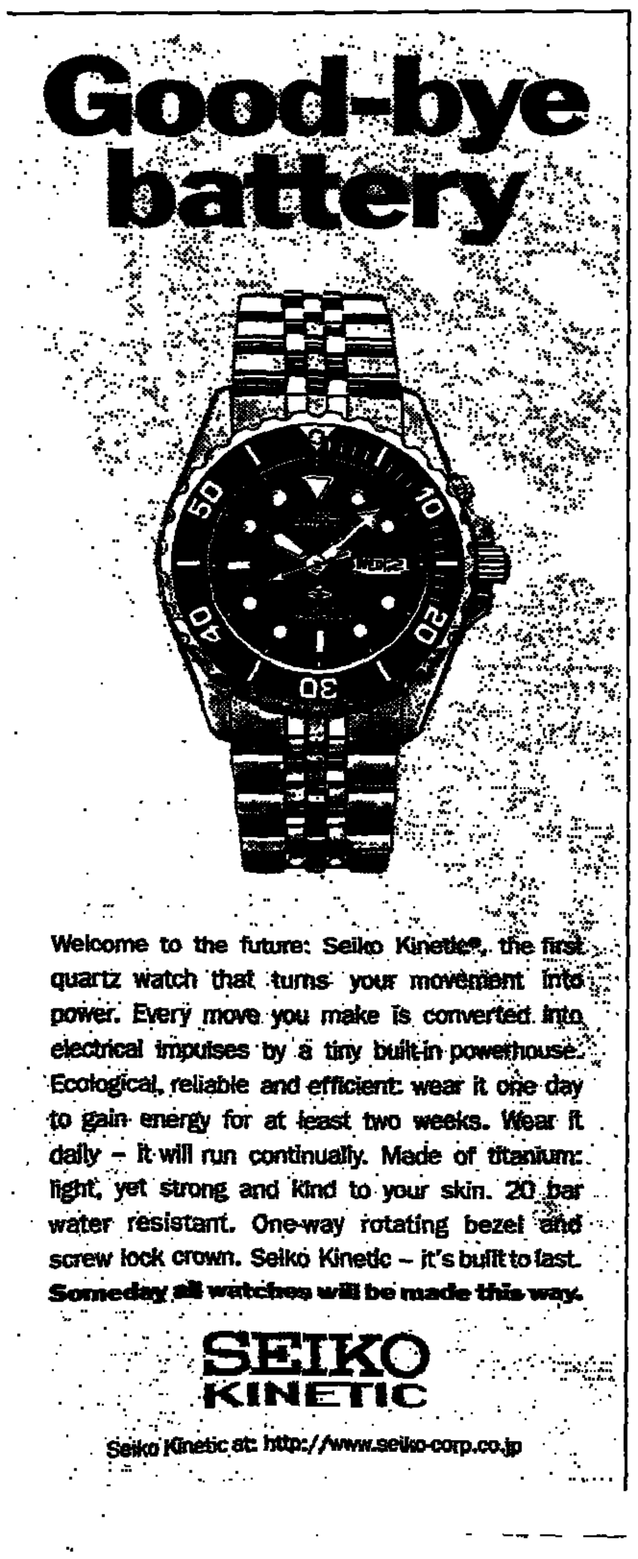
Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgium's Prime Minister, accused Britain of making the same mistakes over and over again. "Britain didn't want to join the Common Market, but then changed its mind after a few years. I think monetary union will be exactly the same," he said.

Last week's warnings from the head of Toyota that Britain's decision on whether to join the euro bloc would inform his company's inward investment decisions were greeted with considerable glee.

In Brussels, officials threatened retaliation for Britain's stubborn insistence on its right to "wait and see". If Britain did not, at some stage, indicate its desire to join the single currency, it would gradually be shut out. The shape of Europe's institutions would be determined without its input. Protectionism would inevitably be a temptation and it would, the clear warning was made, be justified.

The true mark of the increasing defensiveness of Europe's euro architects is that the vision of a powerful, world-beating single market can so easily and cynically be turned into a weapon against sceptical rebels.

Theo Waigel says the convergence criteria agreed at Maastricht can be taken as gospel



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An ideal show for early risers

The Breakfast Programme. *Radio 5 Live, 6.00am.*

I doubt that many readers will have rushed to this space in time to hear this show from the start, but never mind, it is on the air five days a week and from today it ends at 9.00am rather than 8.30. The other two breakfast shows on BBC network radio tend to attract most attention, *Today* on Radio 4 because it generates political controversy and *The Breakfast Show* on Radio 1 because of that chap whose name I have mercifully forgotten already. But Radio 5's version, presented by Jane Garvey and Peter Allen, deserves attention: it is snappy, reacts fast to breaking news and carries interesting features, this week on American crime combatting techniques. Give it a try.

The Late Book: Zoo. *Radio 4, 12.30am.*

Choosing novels for this slot is not easy. In general the brief is to be more adult and challenging than in the earlier *Book at Bedtime*, but to be challenging at gone midnight implies an audience which is either insomniac or working an undemanding night shift. *Zoo*, written and read by the 25-year-old Tobias Hill, needs concentration early on, but the writing has a mesmeric quality that rewards effort. The story is about Anja, a Finnish girl working at London Zoo, a strange animal called a liger, its death and the disappearance of the carcass. But the appeal is in Hill's descriptive writing as much as the story: he is particularly adept at conveying sounds and smells and there is a thread of mystery which holds the attention. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Radio 1 Breakfast Show **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session. Includes Eels in session **9.00** In Concert: Boo Radleys. Recorded as part of the NME Brat Awards **10.45** Mark Radcliffe, includes a live session from Blur **12.00** Claire Sturgess **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up To Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Steve Wright at the Movies **7.30** Malcolm Laycock **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Littleton presents the Best of Jazz **10.00** Radio Days. With the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie (2/6) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme. See Choice **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair, includes at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, includes at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Glentillers! Partick Thistle's Scottish League Cup final victory over Celtic in 1971 **8.00** The Big Fight. Coverage of tonight's European Featherweight title fight between Billy Hardy and Steve Robinson, from Sunderland **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** International Recital **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Anything Goes **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Omnibus **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Andy Kershaw **2.05** Outlook **2.30** John Peel **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** The Learning World **3.30** Omnibus **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Just a Minute **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Money On the Move **9.45** How to Listen **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Record News **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** Global Concerns **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Omnibus **3.15** Sport **3.30** Meridian Feature **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Franz Joseph Haydn (Cello Concerto No 1 in C major Hob VIIb/1) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** Sonata. J.C.F. Bach (Cello Sonata in A major) **8.00** Evening Concert. Mendelssohn (Ruy Blas Overture); Schubert (String Quartet in A minor, Rosamunde, D804); Mozart (Oboe Concerto in C, K314); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 3 in A minor, Op 56) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air.** Presented by Andrew McGregor. Mozart, arr Sartorius (Harmoniemusik on The Marriage of Figaro); Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet, excerpts); Liszt (Mephisto Waltz)
9.00 **Morning Collection.** Peter Hobday features Mozart chamber music including Serenade in B flat, K361
10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Nicola Heywood Thomas. Includes Tchaikovsky (February, The Seasons); Fauré (Automne); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Grieg (The Singing, Haugtussa)
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Johannes Ockeghem**
1.00pm **News; BBC Lunchtime Concert.** Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Chilingirian Quartet. Janacek, arr Burghauser (Our Evenings; A Blown-Away Leaf; Come Along; They Chattered Like Swallows, On An Overgrown Path); Stravinsky (Concertino); Schubert (String Quartet in A minor, D804)
2.00 **From the Proms.** Another chance to hear Barry Tuckwell, horn, BBC Singers, Philharmonia, under Esa-Pekka Salonen. Stravinsky (Symphonies of Wind Instruments); Knussen (Horn Concerto No 3 in E flat, K447); Sibelius (Symphony No 7) (r)
3.45 **Voices.** Iain Burnside introduces a recital from Snape Maltings. Joan Rodgers, soprano, Ian Bostridge, tenor, Roger Vignoles, piano. Britten (Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo); Fauré (Cinq Mélodies de Venise); Rossini (L'Orgia; La Pastorella; Serenata) (r)
4.30 **Hoagy's Jazz.** Mel Hill examines the career of Hoagy Carmichael (1/4) (r)
5.00 **Music Machine** (r)
5.15 **In Tune,** with Natalie Wheen. Includes J.C. Bach (Overture: La Cascina); Michael Dougherty (Red Cape tango); Dvořák (Romance in F for Violin and Orchestra)
7.30 **Brahms Centenary.** A series of concerts in which the London Symphony Orchestra, under its principal conductor Colin Davis, marks the centenary of the composer's death. Sara Mingardo, alto, Gerhard Oppitz, piano. Overture; Gesang der Parzen; Alto Rhapsody; Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat
9.10 **Between Heaven and Hell.** Michael Kustow examines the diverse prayers and dreams that hang over Jerusalem, the city once believed to be the navel of the world linking heaven and hell (1/5) (r)
9.35 **Vocal Chords.** The soprano Emma Kirkby sings music by Carissimi, followed by a gradual by Perotin, sung by the Hilliard Ensemble
10.00 **Ensemble.** Penny Gore introduces a performance of Beethoven's String Quartet in A minor, Op 132, played by the Carmina Quartet
10.45 **Mixing It,** with Mark Russell
11.30 **Composers of the Week: London Piano School** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes,** with Campbell Burnap
1.00 **Through the Night**

RADIO 4

5.55am **Shipping Forecast (LW)** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 The New Commandments 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News 9.05 Start the Week,** with Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests Mynette Marrin, Howard Jacobson, Ishmail Merchant, Steven Pinker and Homi Bahbah
10.00 **News; Big Bang (FM).** Jez Nelson examines new ways of dealing with stress
10.00 **Daily Service (LW)**
10.15 **On This Day (LW)**
10.30 **Woman's Hour**
11.30 **Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444** Financial news presented by Vincent Duggleby
12.00 **News; You and Yours,** with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm **Counterpoint.** The general knowledge music quiz hosted by Ned Sherrin 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One,** with Nick Clarke
1.40 **The Archers** (r)
2.00 **News; Unofficial Rosie.** Paula Wilcox stars as the private-eye Rosie Monaghan, in the first of two stories written by Alan McDonald. With Helen Roberts and Dominic Grounsell
3.00 **The Afternoon Shift.** Helen Beckingham continues her journey into the arcane world of textbooks
4.00 **News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.** Lynne Walker talks to the pianist Gerhard Oppitz and reviews the BBC2 adaptation of Joseph Conrad's epic Nostromo, screened on Saturday
4.45 **Short Story: Trapped,** by Lee Langley. Read by Ronald Fernee
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.30 **Just a Minute.** Nicholas Parsons is joined by guests Clement Freud, Tony Hawks, Peter Jones and Fred MacAulay (r)
7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**
7.20 **The Food Programme.** Derek Cooper visits the Black Country (r)
7.45 **The Monday Play: Medea Media,** by Ron Wooden. An epic football drama set in a fictional northern British town. Starring Geraldine James and Clive Russell
9.15 **The View From Here.** Hermione Lee talks to the writer Anita Desai (4/5) (r)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.58 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight,** with Jeremy Harris
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Pursuit of Love,** by Nancy Mitford. Read by Anna Massey (6/10) (r)
11.00 **The Trade Rag (FM).** Nick Baker takes a look behind the scenes of the UK Press Gazette (2/6) (r)
11.00 **Education Matters (LW)**
11.30 **King Solomon's Carpet (FM),** by Barbara Vine, adapted by Nick Fisher. With Kim Wall and Kate Fenwick (1/4) (r)
11.30 **Today in Parliament (LW)**
12.00 **News** incl 12.27am approx Weather
12.30am **The Late Book: Zoo.** See Choice
12.48 **Shipping Forecast**
1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

New mining saga: seams only too familiar

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

To have one *mining drama in your winter schedule might* be considered a muddy misfortune, but two..? Ridiculous, preposterous, couldn't possibly happen. But it has. With the pain of *Rhodes* still fresh in the mind, here we went again. Young man, full of youthful zeal, travels to far-flung place to make fortune from mining. Cue big holes in the ground, thousands of extras and, of course, lots and lots of mud. **Nostromo** (BBC2, Saturday) was under way.

As we quickly settled into the *familiar round* of high-level corruption and illicit arms sales, there appeared to be only two significant differences. Where Rhodes made his fortune from diamonds, Charles Gould (Colin Firth) was mining silver. And where Rhodes *lusted quietly after* pretty young men, Gould had taken his beautiful new wife along. Serena Scott-Thomas duly ran around the silver mine in her nightie. This, I suppose, was progress.

Before this adaptation of Joseph Conrad's impenetrable novel got under way, it was generally assumed that the BBC had another disaster on its hands. The book was out of fashion, filming it had cost a small silver mine and Saturday night on BBC2 was not exactly prime time. But, from the moment the least convincing liner since *Raise the Titanic* anchored off the coast of Costaguana, it was clear that what the BBC actually had on its hands was half a disaster. You could tell that because only half the cast were familiar and the other half were afflicted with that dread Costaguanan disease whereby the lips of the mouth never quite match the words coming out of it. Yes, folks, it's European co-production time again.

The bad news for Colin Firth's proud and prejudiced army of female fans is that their man is not playing the charismatic title role (somebody called Claudio Amendola got that job) but the uncharismatic Gould. Unless clipped beards and crumpled linen are really your thing, I don't think *Nostromo* is going to be for you.

Scott Thomas is suitably enchanting as Emilia, although by the second half of the opening episode her part was already in danger of being swamped by wave after wave of bewildering subplots. Among those smitten in good time, however, was Albert Finney's Doctor Monygham, a strange but not unlikeable cross between Cassandra and Zorba the Greek. "You'll all live to regret it," he wailed between drinks. I think he's probably right.

To have one adaptation of a deeply unfashionable novel in your winter schedule might be a misfortune, but, of course, the BBC has two. **Ivanhoe** (BBC1), the dramatisation so popular that it has to have old *Morecambe & Wise shows on ahead of it*, is still going strong. Crash, crash, bash it went again last night.

During an earlier episode (crash, crash, bash it went), I remember musing whether Walter Scott's novel would ever have won acclaim had it been called *Wilfred*. Now, I wonder Deborah Cook doesn't go the whole hog and call her adaptation *Bois-Guilbert* or — if we're really going populist — *The Life of Brian*. At least that would put poor Steven Waddington out of his misery.

As Ivanhoe, Waddington continues to have a perfectly wretched time — terrible hair, little dialogue and a confusing resemblance to the actor playing Robin Hood. Ciaran Hinds, on the other hand, gets better and better as the evil but far more interesting Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert. "Submit to me and you will fly like a bird," he promised Rebecca (Susan Lynch). And for more than a moment, she looked tempted.

Last night, the crash, crash, bash centred on Torquilstone, seat of the barking mad Front de Boeuf (played with gusto by Nick Brimble). In long shot the castle looked to be made out of the same stuff as the liner in *Nostromo*, but once the battering-ram burst through the gates it proved the ideal venue for a long and bloody game of Saxons and Normans.

By the end Cedric was free (courtesy of a fool called Wamba); Athelstane and Front de Boeuf were dead, and somebody called Ulrika had been declared "a beautiful and virtuous *Saxon maid*", confirming Cook's fondness for littering her script with easy laughs. "He's done this before," muttered a rather camp, merry man, as King Richard urged them into battle. So has she.

Friday night saw the pick of **The Ruth Rendell Mysteries** (ITV) to date, or rather it was the pick of this horribly uneven series for two thirds of its allotted time. After that, it all got a bit vague and inconclusive. Had Mirabel (Beth Goddard) murdered Aunt Julie (Barbara Jefford) with the poison in the drawing room? Or hadn't she? We were left to make up our own minds, which was far too grown-up a conclusion for that time of night. Still, the acting, particularly from Goddard and her young co-star Freddie Findlay, was good and Rendall had spun one of her more convincing tales.

But for those in search of real horror there was only one place to go this weekend: **An Audience with . . . Bruce Forsyth** (ITV, Saturday). The patter was fine — nobody works an audience as well as Forsyth, particularly a celebrity crowd packed with friendly stooges such as Jimmy Tarbuck and Kenny Lynch. The dancing is still great, as a genuinely funny tap dance sequence with Ian Wright, the footballer, and Matthew Pinsent, the rower, showed. But the singing? It is quite, quite terrible. Sorry Bruce, but somebody's got to tell you. It's always nice to *see* you, but hearing you was quite another matter.

.00am Business Breakfast (82845)
.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (87203)
.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8199135)
.20 All Over the Shop (1829574)
.45 Kilroy (6194338)
.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (39593)
1.00 News (T) **and weather** (T) (6763241)
.05 The Really Useful Show (9226425)
.45 Smillie's People (1037425)
2.00 News (T) **and weather** (T) (6772067)
2.05pm The Alphabet Game (5358135)
2.30 Going for a Song (7632970)
2.55 The Weather Show (34756116)
1.00 News (T) and by weather (80390)
1.30 Regional News (98680999)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (20242390)
2.05 FILM: Trouble In Paradise (1988) Raquel Welch stars as a diplomat's widow who sets sail for America, only to be shipwrecked on a tropical island with *Australian seaman Jack Thompson.* Directed by Di Drew (2372654)
3.30 Playdays (1051680) **3.50** Pingu (2176241) **3.55** Bodger and Bad ger (7855845) **4.10** Gadget Boy (9155154) **4.35** Record Breakers Gold (6656048) **5.00** Newsround (T) (7513116) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (1896390)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (837357)
6.00 News (T) and weather (96)
6.30 Newsroom South East (48)
7.00 This Is Your Life (T) (2154)
7.30 Watchdog: Face Value An investigation into the chemicals *that lipstick, mascara and blusher contain* (T) (32)
8.00 Eastenders Kathy gives wayward husband Phil an ultimatum (T) (8574)
.30 The Brittas Empire The staff compete for the coveted title of employee of the month (T) (7609)
***9.00* News** (T) and weather (9661)
9.30 Panorama: Missing Mum Sarah Powell discovers whether working mums can successfully balance their careers with the needs of their families (T) (210951)
10.10 CHOICE **Ruby Wax Meets... Pamela Anderson** (T) Ruby chats about babies, love and sex with the star of *Baywatch* (T) (921357)
10.40 Silent Witness (2/2) (r) (T) (632319) ***WALES: 10.40*** *The Slate (100834)* **11.10** Film 97 (903574) **11.40** Fallen Angels (969390) **12.10am** FILM: He Knows You're Alone (9899655) **1.40** News
***11.35* Film 97 with Barry Norman** Featuring *reviews of White Man's Burden* with John Travolta; *Fly Away Home*, with Jeff Daniels and Anna Paquin (977319)
12.05am Fallen Angels Thriller adapted from a *Raymond Chandler short story* directed by Tom Hanks. A hotel detective consoles a distraught girl awaiting the return of her lover from prison, and discovers *the Mob are planning* a welcome of their own (1879636)
12.35 FILM: He Knows You're Alone (1980) Tense thriller, with Don Scardino and *Caitlin O'Heaney*. A woman with second thoughts about her impending marriage fears she is being stalked. Directed by Armand Mastroianni (7781094)
2.05 Weather *(5678907)*

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme *listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers*, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and *Video Programmer* are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University (6053593) **7.15** News **7.30** Secret Squirrel (1025574) **7.55** Blue Peter (7629319) **8.20** Pingu (9367932) **8.25** Hairy Jeremy (1902319) ***8.35*** *Lassie (9528951)* ***9.00*** *TV6 (31951)* **9.30** Pathways of Belief (3470680) **9.45** Technology Starters (3475135) **10.00** Playdays (72883) **10.30** Landmarks *(4758951)* ***10.50*** *Look and Read* (4778715) **11.10** Zig Zag (2778357) **11.30** Ghostwriter (8796) **12.00** Testament (T) (51715) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (88357) **1.00** *Daytime on Two:* History File (15375067) **1.20** German Globo (98942593) **1.25** Landmarks (T) (15354574) **1.45** Storytime (98667048) ***2.00*** *Pingu (r) (35453425)* ***2.05*** *Hairy Jeremy (r) (35462796)*
2.10 Snooker: The Masters Mark Williams v Paul Hunter (28165319)
5.30 Ski Sunday Special Hazel Irvine introduces the men's Super-G (25)
6.00 Snooker: The Masters James Wattana v Nigel Bond (63048)
7.00 People's Century: 1975 — War of the Flea Members of the Vietcong and Mujahidin recall the tactics which brought them victory over their respective *enemies, America and the Soviet Union* (r) (T) (8661)
7.58 Video Nation Shorts (617661)

Adam Hart-Davis in Wales (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE ***Local Heroes*** While in Wales cycling scientist Adam Hart-Davis puts Thomas Telford's scientific principles to rebuild a road into practice. *He also finds out more about the bone-setters of Anglesey*; Robert Recorde, who invented the equals sign; and in Merthyr Tydfil Hart-Davis celebrates the running *of the first railway locomotive invented by* Richard Trevithick (T) (8116)
8.30 University Challenge (T) Glasgow University meet Harris Manchester College, Oxford for a place in the second round (T) (8951)
9.00 *FILM: My Name is Kate* *(1993) with* Donna Mills. A successful career woman seems to have everything, but she is an alcoholic and it threatens to ruin her life. At a drying-out clinic the shock she *experiences at not having* alcohol and help from a younger room-mate forces her to confront the demons that haunt her. Directed by Rod Hardy (T) (8932)
10.30 Newsnight with *Peter Snow (T) (175609)*
11.15 Snooker: *The Masters* *(400067)*
11.55 Weather (930048)
12.00 *The Midnight Hour* *(89568)*
***12.30am* Learning Zone: Stand by Your Banner!** **1.00** Toulouse: Money and Power in Provincial France (30365) **1.30** The Church of Santa Maria Dei Miracoli *(79742)* **2.00** Square One (23723) **4.00** Italia 2000 (82891) **4.30** Science Master Classes (84278) **5.30-5.59** RCN Nursing Update *(80297)*

CHOICE

Local Heroes
BBC2, 8.00pm

For his latest bunch of scientists and inventors Adam Hart-Davis takes his bike to Wales and celebrates a very big name *indeed, Thomas Telford. But surely Telford* was a Scot? Well, yes, though Hart-Davis is able to convince us that Wales, as much as anywhere, contains the Telford legacy of *roads*, bridges and canals. Ever the doer as well as the talker, Hart-Davis recruits some local chums and demonstrates how Telford turned a bog into a smooth and attractive road. Richard Trevithick, another Hart-Davis idol, was no Welshman either but makes the show on account of running the first railway locomotive at Merthyr Tydfil. Lesser-known, but no less relishable figures, fill another very enjoyable programme. Among them are a man who claimed to have invented the mobile telephone, but whether he is a hero may be a matter of opinion.

Classic Trains: Express!
Channel 4, 8.30pm

With the penultimate film of the series we at *last reach the pinnacle of railway glamour*, the battle between the inter-war expresses to break the world speed record for steam. When Eurostar routinely reaches 180mph (in France, of course) the achievements of *Silver Jubilee, Coronation* and *Mallard* may seem modest. But reaching 125mph was heady stuff at the time and well worth recalling, as *it is here in stirring archive footage* and the *memories of some of the men who were on* the footplate. Besides, those wonderful streamlined locos make the Eurostar engines look like workhorses. But it is surprising to *learn that the spaceship look of the 1930s* designs had so little aerodynamic value.

Cutting Edge: Identical Twins
Channel 4, 9.00pm

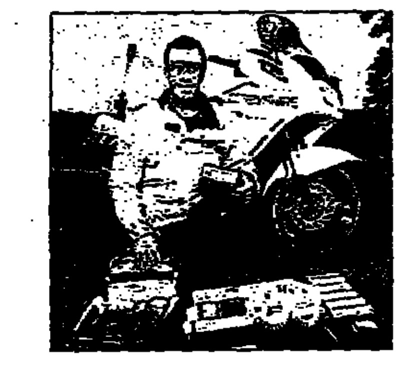
Rebecca Frayn's documentary has the *deceptively simple* approach of getting six pairs of identical twins to talk about their lives and, in particular, their relationships with each other. In the case of the first set, *there is more gurgle than talk, since* Amber and Ruby are only two years old. It is the adults who give the film its force and its poignancy. There is one happy story, of a *man reunited with his twin brother after a* gap of 51 years. Mary and Liz demonstrate that it is possible to be identical twins and yet utterly unalike in personality, interests and sexual orientation. Elsewhere we hear of the acute sense of loss which afflicts the twin who loses his or her sibling. It can happen through marriage but much more profoundly through bereavement. When John lost his twin brother, he says, it was like witnessing his own death.

Ruby Wax Meets . . . Pamela Anderson
BBC1, 10.10pm

In case you were wondering, Ruby Wax explains her second encounter with Pamela Anderson in terms of viewing figures. Last time Anderson helped to boost Wax's ratings *to nine million and you do not throw away* audiences like that. Wax's producer ungallantly reminds her (and us) that Anderson's *television audience, spread over 80 countries, is 142 million.* But never mind, when it comes to the wisecracks Wax has Pam trailing. The real reason for going back to Anderson is that she makes Wax look *brilliant. Even the Duchess of York* fared better under the Wax treatment than Anderson, who flounders without a script. And you have to concede that Wax perpetrates *some* good gags. One is feeding Anderson large mouthfuls of chocolate to ruin that extraordinary figure. Another has to do with sex, but is best left unspecified.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (1733203)
***9.25* Win, Lose or Draw** (1837593)
9.55 Regional News (5812357)
10.00 The Time, The Place (76609)
10.30 This Morning (33165116)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (6761951)
12.30 News (T) **and weather** (7654335)
12.55 High Road (T) (7642357) **1.25** Home And Away (T) (15365680) **1.50** *Capital Woman (20257222)* **2.20** *Blue Heelers* (9579406) **3.15** Breakaways (1703406)
3.20 News (T) (4953929)
3.25 Regional News (T) (9808870)
3.30 Tots TV (7870154) **3.40** Rainbow Days (9561116) **3.50** Goofy (7674970) **4.05** *Sooty's Amazing Adventures (1855777)* **4.20** Adam's Family Tree (9146406) **4.45** Art Attack (6670628)
5.10 Bagdad Cafe (113593)
5.40 News (T) **and weather** (871785)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (514932)
6.25 HTV News (112357)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Ulrika Jonsson *learns the art of pizza-making on a trip to* Capri, in the Bay of Naples, while Judith Chalmers visits Brighton and John Carter ventures into the stark volcanic *landscape of the Comoros islands in the* Indian Ocean (T) (7222)
7.30 Coronation Street Deirdre is shocked by the events at No 1 (T) (28)
8.00 World In Action Looks into how Scotland Yard tried to use informers to *crack the secrets of the notorious* Jamaican Yardie gangs (T) (6970)



Paramedic Dave Skinner (8.30pm)

8.30 Blues And Twos: Lifebikes On duty with Dave Skinner, of Derbyshire Ambulance Service's motorbike paramedic unit (T) (2777)
9.00 McCallum *After the deaths at the sweatshop, it looks as if Joanna might have* been infected by the lethal, drug-resistant bacteria (2/2) (T) (1999)
10.00 News (T) and weather (49970)
10.30 Regional News (T) (573357)
10.40 Nash Bridges *Nash goes in search of a* stolen explosive device (T) (650715)
11.35 Mainly Men Magazine hosted by John Leslie (995715)
12.05am Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Jar A man filled with gloom over his lack of artistic ability and a cheating wife uncovers a strange piece of art that has the power to change his life (1864704)
12.35 Football Extra (8261162)
1.20 War of the Worlds (8072605)
2.15 Club Nation (r) (158549)
3.15 God's Gift *(r) (147433)*
4.15 Cool Vibes (88433926)
***4.30* World In Action** *(r)* (T) *(48384)*
5.00 Coronation Street *(r)* (T) (91988)
5.30 News *(77723)*

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
***12.55pm*-1.25 A Country Practice** *(7642357)*
1.50 Blue Healers (4285203)
2.50 High Road (5163864)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7113593)
6.25-7.00 Central News (112357)
11.35 New York News (577203)
1.20am Late and Loud (5542926)
2.20 Real Highway Patrol (8496487)
2.45 FILM: All's Fair (708297)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (5268742)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Gardeners' Diary (7642357)
1.50 Brief Encounters (20257222)
2.20 A Country Practice (9588154)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7113593)
***6.00-7.00* Westcountry Live** (50574)
***10.30* Westcountry News** (564609)
10.45 Nash Bridges (659086)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (867338)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7642357)
1.50 Getaways (20257222)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (7211574)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7113593)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (64)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (16)
10.30 Meridian News and weather (564609)
10.45 Nash Bridges (659086)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (867338)

ANGLIA

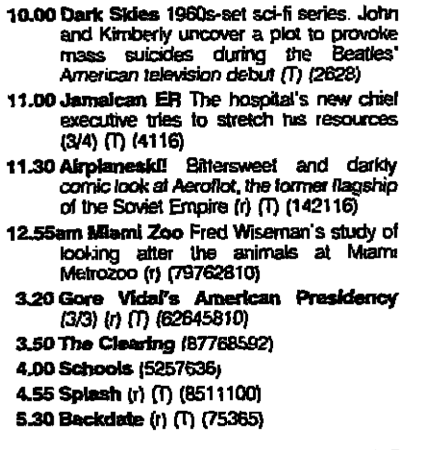
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7642357)
1.50 Murder, She Wrote (4285203)
2.50 Gardens Without Borders (5163864)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7113593)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (112357)
11.40 Highlander (867338)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (25393)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (38311)
***9.00* Bewitched** *(33319)*
***9.30* Ysgolion** *(506357)*
12.00 Right To Reply (46883)
12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (73425)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (13628)
1.30 FILM: Ten Tall Men (76673116)
3.20 Fresh Pop (6553703)
3.30 Crawshaw Paints (22)
4.00 Fifteen-To-One (57)
4.30 Bloom (41)
5.00 5 Pump (5628)
5.30 Countdown (93)
6.00 Newyddion (438661)
6.05 Heno (832338)
6.35 Gair Am Aur (707203)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (935319)
7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (217796)
8.00 Bacha Hi O'Ma (4512)
***8.30* Newyddion** (5749)
9.00 I Dot (2241)
10.00 Sgorio (3429512)
11.05 Evita Pre-Madonna (601609)
12.05am-1.50 FILM: See Jane Run (993636)
4.00 Ysgolion (5257636)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (25393)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (38311)
9.00 Bewitched (33319)
9.30 Schools (506357)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (T) (46883)
12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (r) Cookery (73425)
***1.00* Cybill** *(r)* (T) (24970883)
1.25 Valley of the Stereos (15372970)
1.45 FILM: The Immortal Sergeant (1943) with Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara. Second World War drama about a *corporal reflecting on his dismal* prospects and the girl of his dreams while stranded in the desert. Directed by John Stahl (T) (94156203)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) *(22)*
***4.00* Fifteen-To-One** (T) (57)
***4.30* Countdown** (T) *(41)*
5.00 The Montel Williams Show (T) (5628)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (93)
6.00 Moviewatch Four reviewers from Sheffield offer opinions on Mel Gibson in *Ransom* and John Travolta and Harry *Belafonte in White Man's Burden* (26)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (86)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (331715)
7.55 The People's Agenda First in a new four-nightly debating series in which members of the public discuss topical *issues with politicians* (642357)
8.00 *Wild Relations* A story *of extraordinary* coincidences that led to an unprecedented rise in the numbers of flamingo-like banded stilts (4/4) (T) (4512)
8.30 CHOICE **Classic Trains** Celebrating *the record-breaking speeds*, the locomotives and the men who designed and drove the express trains *which until the 1950s were used for most long-distance travel in Britain* (T) (5749)



Twin sisters Amber and Ruby (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Cutting Edge: Identical Twins** *Examining the lives of* six sets of identical twins (T) (2241)
10.00 Dark Skies 1960s-set sci-fi series. John and Kimberly uncover a plot to provoke mass suicides during the Beatles' *American television debut* (T) *(2628)*
11.00 Jamaican ER The hospital's new chief executive tries to stretch his resources (3/4) (T) (4116)
11.30 Airplaneski! Bittersweet and darkly *comic look at Aeroflot, the former flagship* of the Soviet Empire (r) (T) (142116)
12.55am Miami Zoo Fred Wiseman's study of looking after the animals at Miami Metrozoo (r) (79762810)
3.20 Gore Vidal's American Presidency *(3/3) (r)* (T) *(62645810)*
3.50 The Clearing (87768592)
4.00 Schools (5257636)
4.55 Splash (r) (T) (8511100)
5.30 Backdate (r) (T) (75365)

● **For more comprehensive** ***listings of satellite and cable*** **channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (989951) **9.00** Designing Women (71593) **9.30** Designing Women (91845) ***10.00*** *Another World* (44512) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (31048) **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (14796) ***1.00pm*** *Geraldo* (90116) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (97116) **3.00** Jenny Jones (16680) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (35715) ***5.00*** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9609) **6.00** Real TV (2861) **6.30** Married — with Children (6241) ***7.00*** The Simpsons (2698) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2425) **8.00** Million Dollar Babies (59883) **10.00** Nash Bridges (38390) **11.00** *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (45241) **12.00** LAPD (12810) **12.30am** The Lucy Show (73433) **1.00** Hit Mix (46549)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (5063628) **8.00** Star Trek: Voyager *(5049048)* ***9.00*** *Poltergeist: The Legacy* (5052512) **10.00** The Outer Limits (5062999) **11.00** Late Show (5321796) **12.00** *Hit Mix Long Play* (7745723)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, *24 hours a day*, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Return to Peyton Place (1961) (76832) **8.00 War of the Buttons** (1994) (24512970) **9.40 Charro!** (1969) (18521970) **11.20 Roller Boogie** (1979) (98815203) **1.10pm Someone Else's Child** (1994) (77943574) **2.45 The Bellboy** (1960) (8758116) **4.00 The In-Crowd** (1988) (7241) **6.00 My Father, the Hero** (1994) (62593) **7.30 El Features** (7593) **8.00 First Knight** (1995) (55775116) **10.15 No Contest** (1994) (303088) **11.55 SFW** (1995) (767680) **1.30am Necronomicon** (1994) (921365) **3.05 Fathers and Sons** (1992) (225902) **4.45 My Father, the Hero** (1994) (84181)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am When Willie Comes Marching Home (1950) (78135) **7.30 A-Haunting We Will Go** (1942) (3008338) **8.40 We're Back! a Dinosaur's Story** (1993) (8459241) **10.00 Say One for Me** (1959) (69749) **12.00 Brothers' Destiny** (1995) (92661) **2.00pm The Roots of Heaven** (1958) (44839777) **4.10 We're Back! a Dinosaur's Story** (1993) (55230593) **6.00 The Big Game** (1995) (47048) **8.00 Net Worth** (1995) (42593) **10.00 Interview with the Vampire** (1994) (83241680) **12.05am State of Emergency** (1994) (7548278) **1.35 Not Our Son** (1995) (928278) **3.10 Sparrow** (1994) (873100) **5.00 A Tale of Two Cities** (1989) (37704)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Twentieth Century (1934) (8739574) **8.00 The Burbs** (1989) (8741319) **10.00 Nico** (1988) (4646425) **11.45 Nine and a Half Weeks** (1985) (1012593) **1.45am** ***Rasputin: The Mad Monk*** (1966) (3441076) **3.20-5.15 Woman of the Year** (1942) (9269094)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.
9.00pm Lust for Life (1956) (4451777) **11.15 Meet Me in St Louis** (1944) (72344680) **1.15am Cannery Row** (1982) (30844617) **3.20-5.00 The Beast, with Five Fingers** (1946) (43039723)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Mouse Tracks (9584406) ***6.25*** *Quack Attack* (8506241) **6.50** Bonkers (3955154) **7.15** The Little Mermaid (8154338) **7.40** Aladdin (1168828) ***8.05*** *Brand Spanking New Doug* (7284999) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (6538203) **8.40** The Care Bears (4611154) **9.10** *Grounding Marsh* (8242241) **9.40** Big Garage (4124681) **9.55** Lamb Chop's Play Along (4288088) **10.25** Muppet Babies (8182628) ***10.50*** Dumbo's Circus (5232965) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (8369338) **11.50** Under the Umbrella Tree (4274241) ***12.20pm*** *Timon and Pumbaa* (2779819) **12.35** The Little Mermaid (4294390) **1.00** Madison's Adventures Growing Up Wild (82980357) **1.25** Eyewitness (75168512) **1.45** Aladdin (67729870) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (77543116) ***2.35*** *Bonkers* (1451319) **3.00** Quack Attack (9218222) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (2165680) **3.35** Goof Troop (1370857) ***4.00*** *Timon and Pumbaa* (7383116) **4.10** Goof Troop (2182319) **4.35** Bonkers (8999661) **5.00** Aladdin (8846861) **5.25** *Timon and Pumbaa* (8408574) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (706319) **6.00** Brand Spanking New Doug (5116) ***6.30*** *Boy Meets World* (9796) **7.00** Brotherly Love (1864) **7.30** FILM: California Woman (78512) **9.00** Just Like Family (19715) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (61241)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (7997777) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (9390357) ***7.00*** *Samurai* Pizza Cats (5312048) **7.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (5324883) **8.00** Masked Rider (5009338) **8.30** Crocadoo (5008609) **9.00** Rimba's Island (1441116) **9.25** *Zoobilee Zoo (4081932)* ***9.45*** *Why Why* Family (1376661) **10.00** Pinocchio (9321609) **10.30** Billy the Cat (5068845) ***11.00*** *Princess Sissi and the Jewel Riders* (4591680) **11.30** Bumpety Boo (4509609) **12.00** Rimba's Island (89751864) ***12.25pm*** *Zoobilee Zoo* (91875086) **12.45** Why Why Family (49775609) **1.00** Pinocchio (5311319) **1.30** Billy the Cat (9370609) ***2.00*** Three Little Ghosts (5592338) **2.30** Inspector Gadget (3889241) **3.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (5571845) **3.30** Ace Ventura (3591086) **4.00** Casper (3570593) **4.30** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (3676777) **5.00** *Masked Rider* (5576390) **5.30** Spiderman (3690357) **6.00** Goosebumps (3680970) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3671222)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport Special (81067) **7.30** Beach Volleyball (26796) **8.30** Racing News (84067) **9.00** Motorsport: World of Speed and Beauty (85319) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (38999) **10.00** Football: Spanish League *(18135)* **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (99883) **12.30pm** Football Special (856998) **3.00** Football: Futbol Mundial (3203) **3.30** British Basketball (681512) **6.00** Sports Centre (3195) **6.30** Football: Tartan Extra (80154) **7.30** Boxing: Billy Hardy v Steve Robinson — Live (317425) **10.00** Sports Centre (99512) **10.30** Football: Tartan Extra (23883) **11.30** High 5 (30845) ***12.00*** *Sports* Centre (57384) **12.30am** Ringside Boxing (358164) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (77487)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Rebel Sports (82562680) **12.30pm** Golf: Pebble Beach Pro-Am (61361135) **3.30** *Football League Review* (38865574) **6.00** Rebel Sports (21670574) **6.30** High 5 (21694154) **7.00** Sports Centre (66272390) **7.30-11.00** World Motor Sport (61747319)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Speed Skating: World Sprint *Championships* (89680) **9.30** Ski-Jumping: *World Cup (87067)* ***11.00*** *Nordic Combined* Skiing: World Cup (64390) **12.00** Alpine Skiing: World Championships — Live *(24690)* ***1.00pm*** *Cyclo-Cross: World* Championship (22338) **2.00** Allsports: Winter X-Games (60086) **3.00** Biathlon: World *Championships* (59203) **5.00** Alpine Skiing: Ski Special (2951) **6.00** Luge: World Cup (24654) **7.00** Allsports: Winter X-Games *(23929)* ***8.00*** *Motorsports: Speedworld* (88319) **9.00** Strongman (91883) **10.00** Football: Eurogoals (94970) **11.00-12.30am** Snooker: European League 1997 (40654)

Kirk Douglas stars as Van Gogh in *Lust for Life* (TNT, 9.00pm)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton *Factor* (4724898) ***6.30*** Once Upon a Time (80272512) **6.45** Our Backyard (41017390) **7.00** Allsorts *(7487574)* ***7.15*** *Once Upon a Time* (4448338) **7.30** Children's Ward (3438319) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (2136135) ***8.30*** *Families (2135406)* **9.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (8429406) **10.00** Please Sir! (8129406) **10.30** No Honestly (2149970) **11.00** Love Among the Artists (3447067) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (2139222) **12.30pm** Families (1713375) **1.00** Crown Court Special (3441883) **1.30** Krypton Factor (2163816) **2.00** A Family at War (8120135) **3.00** Sherlock Holmes (2571425) **4.00** The Doctor Series: In Charge 1 *(6536628)* ***4.30*** Please Sir! (6625512) **5.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (3312593) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (8613777) **6.30** Families (6637357) ***7.00*** The Doctor Series: In Charge 1 (3313222) **7.30** No Honestly (6626241) **8.00** Sherlock Holmes (1411864) ***9.00*** *Classic Coronation* Street (5124086) **9.35** Good Life Guide (4535338) **10.00-11.00** Dempsey and *Makepeace (1434715)*
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features
From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine. *Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith*
From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health
From 3.00-5.00 Home and Garden. Includes The Good Life Style Guide

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: The Mystery of Edgar Allen Poe (3248883) **5.00** History Alive (4084796) ***6.00*** *Our Century: Vietnam — the* 10,000 Day War (3720357) **7.00-9.00** Biography: Edward G Robinson (1891932)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day *from* ***8pm-4am*** *Monday to Wednesday and* **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable
8.00pm Amazing Stories (4061845) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (4073680) **9.00** Sightings *(1297116)* ***10.00*** *Starman (1890203)* ***11.00*** The Invaders (9205721) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (6409094) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6478346) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (2305278) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (9698568) ***2.30*** *Night Gallery (9677075)* **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (3688029)

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am Joy of Painting (2465086) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (6359721) **10.00** Surprise Chefs (7599883) **10.30** Our House (2454970) **11.00** Painted House (7656203) **11.30** This Old House (7657932) **12.00** *Sweet Things (2445222)* ***12.30pm*** *Graham* Kerr (8254357) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (1088845) **1.30** Home Again (9604898) ***2.00*** *Hometime (5368406)* **2.30** Furniture on the Mend (2278338) **3.00** Two's Country (5370241) **3.30-4.00** This Old House
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (2253390) **4.30** Breaking the *Ice* (2258574) ***5.00*** Connections 2 (5382086) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (2273154) **6.00** Wild Things (3309406) ***7.00*** *Beyond 2000 (5362222)* **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (2250203) **8.00** History's Turning Points (5371970) **8.30** Bush Tucker Man (5387777) **9.00** Lonely Planet (4522929) **10.00** Discovery Signature (1372406) **11.00** Wings (1098222) ***12.00*** *Classic Wheels (9296891)* **1.00am** Top Marques (5914655) **1.30-2.00** World of Adventures (4015988)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (7335338) **7.35** Neighbours (3909883) ***8.00*** *Crossroads* (9055796) **8.25** EastEnders (1390263) **9.00** The Bill (2434116) **9.30** Breakfast with the Boswells (1495169) ***10.00*** *Never the Twain* (7591241) **10.30** The Sullivans (2463628) **11.00** Bergerac (1019715) **12.00** Cross*roads (2447680)* ***12.30pm*** *Neighbours* (6454376) **1.00** EastEnders (9438512) **1.35** I Didn't Know You Cared (5647203) **2.10** A *Little Bit of Emery (51534512)* **2.25** The Other One (2727339) **3.00** Tellystack (5389999) **3.30** The Bill (2276241) ***4.00*** *All Creatures* Great and Small (7672241) **5.00** Bob's Full House (5710338) **5.40** Crossroads (6423661) ***6.05*** *EastEnders* (3614425) **6.40** Generation Game (61126241) **7.50** Are You Being Served? (6479845) **8.30** A Woman of Substance *(2367357)* ***10.30*** *The Bill (9625628)* ***11.05*** Spitting Image (9336715) **11.40** Dr Who (97919999) **2.15am** Shopping (6808407)

TCC

6.00am Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (67086) **6.30** Ocean Odyssey (55777) **7.00** Escape from Jupiter (86135) ***7.30*** *Flash Gordon (98970)* **8.00** Batman (24222) **8.30** Dennis the Menace (23593) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (14845) ***9.30*** *Bobby's* World (50135) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (79357) **10.30** Iznogoud (43357) **11.00** *Danger Mouse (41375)* **11.30** Gravedale High (91834) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (34609) **12.30pm** Art Attack (54961) **1.00** Road to Avonlea (59406) **2.00** Ocean Odyssey (3222) **2.30** Escape from Jupiter (91311) **3.00** Batman (2957) ***3.30*** *Flash* Gordon (2406) **4.00** Earthworm Jim (4241) **4.30-5.00** Dennis the Menace (9375)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Turtles (12512) **6.30** Biker Mice (41951) ***7.00*** *Rocko (6351999)* ***7.15*** *Hey Arnold!* (7868661) **7.30** Rugrats (68116) **8.00** Doug (93338) **8.30** Aaahh!! Real *Monsters (92609)* ***9.00*** *Alvin and the* Chipmunks (76861) **9.30** Arthur (29241) **10.00** Bananas in Pyjamas/Wimzie's House/Lizzie's Library/Mr Men/Banana (97628) **11.00** Children's BBC (77864) **12.00** Magic School Bus (96425) **12.30pm** *Mr Men* (30357) **1.00** Babar (71680) **1.30** Katie and Orbie (29628) **2.00** Little Bear Stories (2338) **2.30** Children's BBC (70777) **3.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters (2203) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (1338) **4.30** Rugrats (3142113) ***4.45*** *Doug (4897406)* ***5.00*** *Sister* Sister (6390) **5.30** Kenan and Kel (1574) **6.00** Alex Mack (1715) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (2067)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (6154) **7.30** Roseanne (1951) **8.00** Roseanne (2574) **8.30** Monty Pythons' Flying Circus (1609) **9.00** Cheers (77715) **9.30** Taxi (10583) **10.00** It's Garry Shandling's Show (97154) **10.30** Frasier (73574) **11.00** In Bed with Me Dinner (49932) ***11.30*** *Monty Pythons' Flying* Circus (61715) **12.00** The Critic (65926) **12.30am** Soap (26549) **1.00** Cheers (62365) ***1.30*** *Taxi (21742)* **2.00** Entertainment UK (50839) **2.30** In Bed with Me Dinner (39346) **3.00** Frasier (75029) **3.30-4.00** *It's Garry Shandlings' Show (53926)*

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (8827131) **9.00** New *Twilight Zone (7663593)* **9.30** New Twilight Zone (4759947) **10.00** Tour of Duty (1277852) **11.00** *Devil Man (4128406)* **1.00am** Robocop (1897902) **2.00** Tour of Duty (6307758) **3.00** Devil Man (2245181) ***5.00*** *New Twilight Zone (9209365)* **5.30** New Twilight Zone (5474758)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (21477999) **9.05** Gladrags and *Glamour* (6337932) **9.10** Gabrielle (1910574) **10.05** Jerry Springer (3564661) **11.00** Young and the Restless (5681796) **11.50** Brookside (2391241) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (5432067) **12.55** Tempest (1559135) **1.40** Gordon Elliott (9020222) **2.30** Agony Experience (4807680) **3.00** Live at Three (64181620) **4.05** Jerry Springer (9039785) **5.05** Lingo (66624777) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4818796) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (8296135) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (1297932) **7.05** Brookside (1364593) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (2773951) **8.05** Rolonda (4659512) **9.00 FILM: Connections** (8731932) **11.00-12.00** Spicy Sex Files (8399703)

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (6401661) **5.05** Blockbusters (1799628) **5.35** Challenge Prize Time (800338) **5.50** Spellbound (713338) **6.20** Prize Time (342425) **6.30** Catchphrase (633048) **6.56** Prize Time (215932) **7.05** Sale of the Century (763154) **7.30** Prize Time (238203) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (574357) ***8.10*** *Prize Time (496290)* **8.20** All Clued Up (616067) **8.50** Prize Time (409390) **9.00** Through the Keyhole *(957512)* ***9.25*** *Prize Time (318609)* **9.35** Busman's Holiday (842241) **10.00** Prize Time (416135) **10.05** Treasure Hunt *(300048)* ***11.05*** *Prize Time (338406)* ***11.20*** Love at First Sight (182154) **11.45** Prize Time (222406) **12.00** Sale of the Century *(40100)* ***12.30am*** *Hart to Hart (45487)* **1.30** Lou Grant (71278) **2.30** Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (38094) **3.30** All Together Now (91100) **4.00-5.00** Fall Guy (12013)

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LOW POINT 43
Bleak results for ICI in fourth quarter

BUSINESS

CLONE 44
Fed likely to be model for Euro-bank

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 1997

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Brussels claims Tory policy on jobs fuelled inequality

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BRUSSELS has made a sharp attack on the Government's jobs policy, recommending that Britain should reverse key aspects of Conservative employment legislation.

A European Commission report on jobs in Britain, published today, finds that unemployment is likely to fall to a sustainable level of 5 per cent by 2000, implying a further cut from just under 1.9 million to 1.4 million. This would make the UK the only EU member state to meet the target, set by Jacques Delors in 1993, to halve unemployment by the end of the century.

The report's analysis contends, however, that this outcome had little to do with government policy. It rejects central aspects of the Conservatives' employment record and policies, and says they have led to much greater inequality.

The Commission's report, prepared for Brussels by British academics, says that the jobs market in the UK is "out of line" with other EU countries, and criticises Britain's "hostility" to EU directives on working time and employee involvement. In particular, the Commission says there is a "good case" for "cautiously reversing" some of the Government's employment legislation on job protection and minimum wages — advice that Conservatives will see as Brussels endorsing key aspects of Labour's programme.

It also says there is "no evidence" that minimum wage rates hit jobs — if anything, minimum wages lead to increases in employment. In addition, the EU's social chapter — strongly opposed by the Government but which Labour would sign up to — is "likely to have little effect" on the UK labour market.

The report adds that recent unemployment falls are not much to do with labour market flexibility promoted by the Government, but to do with changed views among employers about the economy.

Whitehall submitted 20 pages of detailed amendments to the report's UK author, Peter Robinson, of the Centre of Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. The Government admitted yesterday that it was "aware" of the report, but had not seen the final Brussels version. While ministers welcomed the study's conclusion that unemployment would continue to fall, the Department of Education and Employment said it was "surprised" that the study did not conclude that the change in unemployment was due in part due to Government policies.

It rejected the report's findings on the social chapter and the minimum wage, arguing that the range of employment available in the UK owed much to lack of such labour market regulations. It accepted that much of the increase in real earnings had been concentrated in the middle of the earnings span, but said real earnings had risen for all.

Labour seized on the Commission's findings as an endorsement of its own employment policies. Stephen Byers, spokesman on European job issues, said: "This explodes the myth that the provision of minimum standards in the workplace through things like the social chapter and the minimum wage will have an adverse effect on the level of employment".

Controversial analysis, page 46

Insurers demand genetic results

By Our Insurance Correspondent

PEOPLE who have taken genetic tests are about to be told they must declare the results to their insurance company when they apply for a new policy.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI), the trade body for almost 440 companies in the industry, has ruled out mandatory genetic tests for all, a custom already common in the United States. However, the ABI is about to issue guidelines insisting that insurers have a right to know the results of tests already taken.

The decision will cause a storm of protest among those insurance companies that have broken ranks and opposed the disclosure of genetic information.

These rebels, which include Standard Life, the mutual life insurer, believe insurers could use the results to refuse cover or make it prohibitively expensive.

They argue this will deter people from discovering whether they are likely to develop a condition which has a family link. They also believe it will create a class of uninsurable people and harm the image of an industry which is only just recovering from mis-selling pensions.

At present genetic tests are used to identify diseases that have a clear inherited cause, like cystic fibrosis, spina bifida and Huntington's chorea. However, there are a number of other conditions including diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, high blood pressure, peptic ulcers, Alzheimer's and certain forms of cancer, in which the genetic element plays a role.

Tom King, a director of Standard Life, said: "Very few genetic tests are genuinely predictive. The results of a genetic test do not determine that you will die earlier, but they indicate that you have a predisposition. We believe family history is sufficient grounds to make a decision about a person's risk."

Standard Life has expressed concern that a punitive code could hinder medical research.

The industry has been under pressure to draw up a code since 1995, when MPs threatened insurers with statutory regulation unless progress was made.

Abbey moves to outflank ScotAm rivals

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

ABBEY NATIONAL has raised the stakes in the battle for Scottish Amicable by indicating it could increase its offer beyond an average £400 per policyholder.

Its aggressive move is an attempt to rout other cash-rich predators who emerged as rivals yesterday: Prudential, Fortis of Holland, NatWest Bank and Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP).

Scottish Amicable's future as an independent company is effectively over as the five line up to table bids thought to value the mutual life insurer at up to £2 billion.

Abbey indicated yesterday that the £400 million goodwill payment it was offering Scottish Amicable policyholders in the form of cash or shares was "a minimum". By contrast, Scottish Amicable's management has stuck by its original offer of an average £70 per policyholder when the insurer sheds its mutual status in May, plus an undisclosed sum on flotation in three to five years' time.

The other potential bidders have each made an initial approach to Scottish Amicable but, like Abbey, have been rebuffed. The Prudential is believed to have approached Scottish Amicable before the mutual announced its plans to float and is thought to have made a second offer of £1.5 billion. Both Prudential and NatWest have made no secret of their desire to acquire a UK mutual insurer.

Last year NatWest was narrowly beaten by the Halifax Building Society in the bidding for Clerical & Medical, another prominent mutual life insurer. AMP, which owns Pearl, the UK life insurer, is interested in boosting its UK presence. Fortis is known to be looking for a UK life business and has just begun a campaign to raise its profile in this country.

Scottish Amicable's board insisted yesterday that no predator was capable of making a serious offer until it had seen the financial information being mailed to policyholders in a week's time. Though the circular will make reference to Abbey's bid, it will recommend policyholders to vote in favour of Scottish Amicable's own proposals at a special general meeting on March 15.

Abbey's current offer values Scottish Amicable at between £700 million and £1.1 billion and promises to pay a further £400 million goodwill to policyholders in cash or shares.

Jane Ageros, Abbey's corporate affairs director, said: "We have had no futher contact with the board of Scottish Amicable since last Thursday, but surely the directors should stop the clock and let the best offer win. That has to be better for policyholders. We have said this was a minimum offer so raising it is a possibility but not before we have seen more financial information. . ."

A spokesman for Scottish Amicable said: "There is no upper limit on the bonuses that policies might be credited with on flotation — it all depends on performance." He also said that none of the approaches from predators had "even come close to a formal offer".

The spokesman went on: "The circular will spell out the case for accepting our terms. However, if after we have sent out the document the board receives an offer which knocks the spots off our original offer, then we will put it to policyholders. At present there is no offer for £2 billion on the table. There is no real offer on the table at all."

Abbey's approach bears all the hallmarks of its successful hostile bid for the National & Provincial Building Society in 1995. N&P was close to a secret deal with Nationwide when Abbey pounced.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Graham Wallace, of Cable and Wireless Communications, left, with Dick Brown, the new chief executive of C&W

C&W to abandon German alliance

By Eric Reguly

THE centrepiece of Cable and Wireless's European strategy is set for upheaval.

The company has told its partners that it wants to abandon its German alliance, a move that seems to be the first step in overhauling C&W's international presence under Dick Brown, the new chief executive.

C&W might attempt to join Global One, the telecoms alliance formed by Sprint, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom, or even buy a stake in Sprint, after leaving its German alliance. Sprint, a former employer of Mr Brown, is America's third largest overseas carrier, behind AT&T and MCI.

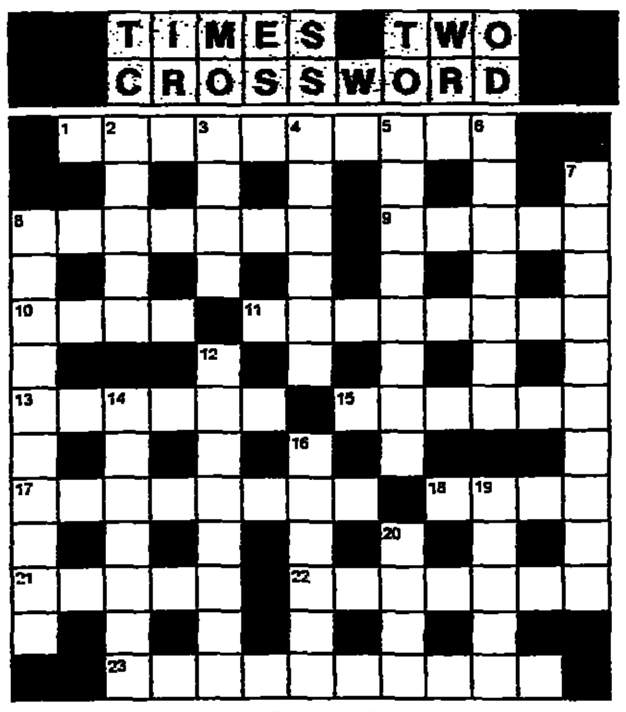
C&W declined to comment, but said that no deal was imminent. The company has become increasingly concerned about the rising costs of competing with Deutsche Telekom, the dominant operator in all of Germany's telecoms markets.

C&W's efforts to withdraw from Vebacom, its partnership with Veba and RWE, the large German industrial groups, mark an about-face. In October, shortly after Mr Brown's arrival, C&W persuaded RWE to defect from Viag InterKom, British Telecom's rival alliance in Germany. RWE's arrival was considered a coup for C&W.

Veba and RWE were said to be furious that C&W, which has an effective 22.5 per cent stake in Vebacom, was looking for an exit route. Veba, for its part, could use C&W's desire to renege on the 1995 plan to make more aggressive use of its 10.5 per cent stake in C&W and its representation on C&W's board. Rumours that it now wants to sell this stake were behind the 13p fall, to 466p, of C&W shares on Friday.

The shares were also hit by the arrival of digital terrestrial broadcasting, a service that will compete with Cable and Wireless Communications, the cable-TV group headed by Graham Wallace.

Veba could launch a takeover bid for C&W, but it is unlikely to do so because a change in ownership would jeopardise C&W operating licences in more than 50 countries.



No 1007

ACROSS
- 1 Place of light confinement (4,6)
- 8 Dissolve (team) (7)
- 9 Greek A (5)
- 10 Make tea, beer (4)
- 11 Useless item; failure (4,4)
- 13 Water behind reef (6)
- 15 Unconscious (6)
- 17 Feeling gratitude (8)
- 18 Piece of money (4)
- 21 Social grouping (5)
- 22 Property theft (7)
- 23 Aggrieved, bitter feelings (10)

DOWN
- 2 Ski course (5)
- 3 Minimum type of tide (4)
- 4 Africa/Arabia divider (3,3)
- 5 Carelessly quick (8)
- 6 Roman god of 19 (7)
- 7 Naughty, dishonest behaviour (5-5)
- 8 Make feeble (10)
- 12 (Given) permanently (3,5)
- 14 River of ice (7)
- 16 Exhibiting 23 (6)
- 19 Large body of water (5)
- 20 Looking stern, harsh (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1006

ACROSS: 1 Debit 4 Arcadia 8 Strauss 9 Mount 10 Stint 11 Crufts 13 Exhort 15 Jejune 18 Nausea 20 Broke 22 Amour 23 His Nibs 24 Retreat 25 Mined

DOWN: 1 Disaster 2 Burnish 3 Trust 4 Alsace 5 Compute 6 Daunt 7 Alto 12 Released 14 Reserve 16 Utopian 17 Sachet 19 Aloft 20 Besom 21 Fair

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Clarke says euro is not EU's economic panacea

By Janet Bush, economics editor

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, warned his European partners not to look to the single currency as the solution to all their economic problems.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum at the weekend, he emphasised the pressing need for European governments to pursue structural economic reform, particularly measures to make their labour markets more flexible.

He said that Britain had already undertaken a radical programme of reform, but that it had taken many years for the economy to feel the benefits. He said: "It has taken at least ten years to make the difference and that was without much gradualism."

The Chancellor said: "It is a mistake to think that eliminating exchange-rate uncertainties will solve all the problems of the single market." He said that he wanted to see a Europe which is deregulated, with low taxes and interest rates, and which "leaves the market economy to get on with it".

Mr Clarke said that Europe's status at the forefront of the world economy was at risk. Governments had to be serious about promoting competitiveness and tackling unemployment, which was far too high. The problems facing European economies were highlighted by many of the speakers at the Davos forum. Horst Siebert, president of Germany's Kiel Institute of World Economics, said that The Netherlands, Sweden and Britain had all responded to the need to adjust from rigid labour markets and unsustainable social security systems, but the two central EMU economies, France and Germany, seemed "incapable of moving". He said: "The world has changed, but Europe wants to hang on to the status quo."

Fred Bergsten, director of the US Institute for International Economics, accused European governments of artificially weakening their currencies in the run-up to monetary union and called on the Group of Seven industrialised nations, which meets in Berlin next weekend, to counter this trend.

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IN BUSINESS TOMORROW

JANET BUSH surveys the background to this week's interest rates meetings in America and Britain

Database upgrade for Customs

By Fraser Nelson

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE has signed deals with five computer specialists to help to modernise its archive system and create a comprehensive database to counter smuggling.

Anite Systems, GMG, Parity Solutions, Computer People and Task Force will supply extra staff to computerise the department's reams of VAT data at a total cost of £14 million. They will also provide advice to help to develop the super-network the Customs hopes to create.

The agreement hands key parts of strategy to the external contractors while using in-house staff for the task of tackling the Year 2000 problem.

Alan Paynter, director of information systems, said it would deploy 50 of its IT staff to update old computer files. Import and export records are also being computerised. Four fifths of imports are still recorded on paper.

Mr Paynter said that when all data was computerised, Customs officials would be able to draw on it to follow up leads. "When it is complete, we will be able to see if there are certain patterns of beaviour which could help us identify areas which we should be investigating."

BAA cuts stake in airport bid group

From Rachel Bridge
in Sydney

BAA has cut its stake in a consortium bidding for Australia's airports from 49 to 29 per cent because of fears that being a foreign company could jeopardise its chances. BAA will manage the airports if the bid succeeds.

The last-minute switch came as BAA, in concert with AMP and Axiom, the Australian fund managers, lodged bids for Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth airports, which are being sold by the Australian Government.

BAA said yesterday: "We've constantly been seen as a British bid and we needed to be seen as more Australian and more user-friendly. Obviously, we want to be as politically sensitive and as politically sound as possible."

AMP has increased its stake from 40 to 49 per cent and Axiom, formerly New South Wales State Super, goes up from 11 to 22 per cent.

Nine groups have lodged bids for one or more of the airports. They include a consortium led by National Express, a group made up of Manchester Airport in cincert with Serco, the British facilities management group, and a group headed by Aer Rianta, the Irish airport operator.

The preferred bidders are expected to be announced within the next few weeks. Australia's remaining airports are set to be sold in batches over the next year, although Sydney Airport is unlikely to come up for sale until next the century.

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